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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 17 | Humidity 56% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 78,507 | Nifty 23,742 | Gold 76,893 | Silver 87,550 | Dollar 85.79 | Euro 88.97 | GBP 107.64

GLASS ACTION

Citizens, organisations, schools hold awareness sessions on deadly effect of glass-coated threads used to fly kites

PAGE 2

SPIC & SPAN

We have just our civic workers and volunteers to thank for their stupendous efforts that cleaned up party mess within hours

PAGE 6

Bengalureans rack up 9,400 traffic violations every hour, making police rake over Rs 80 crore in fines in 2024; though number of accidents has dipped, self-accidents on the rise

CROSS THE LINE

Walk on: Pedestrian deaths dropped by 23.17%

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Bengaluru's road users are setting an unenviable record when it comes to traffic rule violations. In 2024 alone, a staggering 82,86,561 lakh cases were booked by the traffic police, translating to an average of 943 violations every single hour. The fines collected tell an equally compelling story, with road users paying a whopping ₹80,90,76,100 crore over the year — approximately ₹92,108 every hour.

PAGE 5 PARTY SPIRITS

These numbers underscore how widespread non-compliance with traffic laws has become, reflecting the high cost both financially and socially of disregarding road safety norms.

Each hour, Bengaluru's citizens are not only losing money but also compromising the safety and efficiency of the city's bustling roads.

In Bengaluru, on an average, 54 contact cases and 891 contactless cases are booked every hour in 2024. This reflects a staggering 1,529% increase in the number of contactless cases compared to contact cases.

This sharp rise can be attributed to the growing use of CCTV cameras and mobile phone recordings by the police to catch traffic violators, making enforcement more efficient and less reliant on direct interaction.

> "Factors contributing to self-accidents include driver fatigue, overconfidence in handling vehicles, and distractions such as mobile phone use while driving
> —Traffic police official

Self accidents increase in 2024

In 2024, Bengaluru witnessed a notable improvement in road safety, as the total number of accidents reduced by 3.97% compared to 2023. A police official said, "This decline reflects the consistent efforts of the traffic police and other stakeholders in identifying and mitigating

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

Mum's the word

Baby feeding cells at metro stations receive overwhelmingly positive response as mothers find safe haven

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Priti, a 33-year-old Bengalurean, was traveling from Kengeri to KR Market with her one-year-old, when he suddenly began crying, clearly distressed and in need of comfort. Feeling uneasy about feeding her baby in public, Priti was relieved when a metro station staff member directed her to the baby feeding cell at the Kengeri Bus Terminal Metro Station.

"I never realised such a facility existed," Priti told Bangalore Mirror. "It was so comforting to know that the metro station had a baby feeding cell. I've travelled here before, but I only discovered this now. It was incredibly helpful, especially because it's always uncomfortable to feed my baby in a public place. I'm really thankful for this facility."

The establishment of baby feeding cells in metro stations like the one at Kengeri Bus Terminal is a boon for mothers like Priti.

This initiative is part of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited's (BMRCL) efforts to make public transport more inclusive and family-friendly. Over the past year, BMRCL has been working to ensure that several metro stations across the city are equipped with baby feeding cells. These cells are designed with comfortable seating, proper ventilation, and a quiet ambiance to provide a safe space for mothers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Exhibition-performance

'To Forget is to Remember is to Forget' is an exhibition-performance by Nimi Ravindran that attempts to trace layered relationships between memory, mirror, mind and mother. Navigating sound, photo installations, video, text, and performance, the show reimagines the inheritance of loss. **Where: Shoonya - Centre for Art and Somatic Practices, Lalbagh Road When: January 4, 6:30 pm**

02 Philosophical comedy

Waiting for Naseer is a philosophical comedy wherein two actors wait at the Prithvi Theatre cafe to catch a show of their favourite actor, Naseeruddin Shah's new play. The play is a celebration of theatre, acting, passion, and of life itself ... only it is being celebrated by two dead men. **Where: Ranga Shankara & Alliance Francaise de, Bengaluru; When: January 4 to 29**

03 Retro comic play

Jana enanthaare? is a retro comedy play set in the 80s. The plot takes you down memory lane, giving a sense of nostalgia. This play is a fun-filled sitcom yet deep and thoughtful about the harsh realities of society. **Where: BC Ashwath Kala Bhavana, Basavanagudi When: January 5**

04 Laugh out loud

'Hamare Zamane Mein,' a stand-up comedy show by Amit Tandon, is back again. Packed with nostalgia and hilarious, relatable anecdotes, this show will not only have you in splits but also transport you back to the good old days of childhood. **Where: Dr BR Ambedkar Bhavan, Vasanth Nagar When: January 4**

05 Art & technology

The National Education Society of Karnataka presents "NES Supernova 2.0." This two-day free event will showcase 350+ Science & Humanities models, ISRO exhibits, robots & drones, cultural programs, numismatics displays etc. **Where: National College, Basavanagudi; When: January 3 & 4**

Keep manjas at bay this kite festival

Awareness sessions across city address dangers of using glass-coated threads ahead of kite festival; experts urge strict actions on shops selling illegal manjas

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As the kite festival nears, resident welfare associations, corporations, and schools in the city are holding awareness sessions on the adverse impacts of glass-coated threads for kite flying.

Organisations working towards creating awareness about the issue say the demand for such sessions has gone up. "Over the last five months, we have organised 36 sessions on the adverse impact of glass-coated or plastic manjas along with other issues surrounding urban wildlife. These sessions were conducted in schools, residential societies, and corporations," said Dr Colonel Nawaz Shariff, chief veterinarian, PFA Wildlife Hospital.

Various city-based bird and animal rescue centres have been highlighting the perils of using glass-coated strings for flying kites. With the help of campaigns, these centres have been promoting the use of traditional cotton strings instead of glass-coated manjas.

One such session was held at Chaithanya Samarpan, a gated residential community in Whitefield. "We organised a session on wildlife rescue, including the rescue of birds that get entangled in glass-coated manjas. While residents of our layout are aware of the issue and impact of these manjas on birds and other wildlife, the glass-coated manjas are still rampantly used in nearby villages and apartment complexes that have mushroomed in the area. The session was held to sensitise people from these residential areas," said a resident of Chaithanya Samarpan.

File photo of Kite Festival in Bengaluru

Views on ban on manja, other non-cotton threads

Notably, in October this year, the Karnataka government issued a notification banning Chinese manja or any other non-cotton thread used for kite flying, with immediate effect. The notification issued by the Forest, Ecology and Environment Department stated that kite flying in the state will be permissible only when done using cotton thread. It was also clarified that the thread should be free of any sharp, metallic, or glass components, adhesive, or any other strengthening material.

However, experts say the glass-coated and plastic manjas are still ubiquitous. They underlined that while the recent notification prohibited any persons, including shopkeepers, vendors, wholesalers, retailers, traders, hawkers, or salespersons, from manufacturing, procuring, stocking, selling, and using Chinese manja, made up of nylon or other non-biodegradable synthetic items coated with glass or other harmful substances used for flying kites in Karnataka, the order is being violated.

"The banned kite-flying threads are being used unchecked. While notification from the government was a welcome step, a notice should be issued to every manufacturer and importer of these harmful threads. All banned items should be confiscated and burnt in public view. This is the right time to conduct a crackdown on shops selling illegal manjas. Only cotton thread should be used to fly kites," added Dr Shariff.

Combating manja menace

Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Centre's "Say No to Manjha" campaign tackled this issue head-on through grassroots initiatives such as auto rickshaw branding, spreading awareness through 500 vehicles, public sensitisation with activities at Lalbagh Botanical Garden and local shops, manja clean-ups, and volunteering in removing hazardous strings from urban areas.

People for Animals also contributed through campaigns like "Kite vs Kite," advocating for safer kite-flying practices and the banning of nylon threads. Similarly, ARRC's workshops with Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) equip urban residents with practical knowledge on living harmoniously with local fauna.

— Iffath Fathima

Rescue centres in city save, rehabilitate wildlife amidst urban challenges

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The city's growing urbanisation has amplified threats to urban wildlife. Despite this, rescue centres in the city are stepping up with commendable efforts to save and rehabilitate animals in distress.

In 2024, organisations like the Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Centre (ARRC) and People for Animals (PfA) Wildlife Rescue Centre made great efforts towards wildlife protection while raising awareness about critical issues, such as the dangers posed by Chinese manjha (kite strings).

Rising numbers reflect growing challenges

The ARRC rescued over 7,880 animals across 123 species in 2024, including 6,865 birds, 528 reptiles, and 487 mammals, marking a significant rise in rescue operations.

PfA Wildlife Rescue Centre also reported a steady increase in rescues, saving 4,993 animals, including 3,049 birds, 1,154 reptiles, and 790 mammals in 2024. These efforts not only addressed immediate crises but also fostered extraordinary success stories.

Other notable rescues included the retrieval of a juvenile leopard cub trapped under a Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus and the saving of 217 Indian star tortoises from illegal smuggling.

Critical role of public support

Subiksha Venkatesh, Lead Rehabilitator at ARRC, highlighted the role of public support in these efforts. "The public's quick response and willingness to reach out when they spot distressed wildlife allow us to act swiftly and effectively. Urbanisation and anthropogenic stressors like manjha accounted for a large portion of rescues, with 2,672 cases directly linked to kite strings and another 1,066 involving urban hazards such as plastic entanglements and collisions," she said.

> **"2,672 cases were directly linked to kite strings & 1,066 involved urban hazards**
> – Subiksha Venkatesh, Lead Rehabilitator at ARRC

Chief Veterinarian Dr Colonel Nawaz Sharif, shared an inspiring tale of resilience involving a spectacled cobra nicknamed "Scarface," critically injured at a construction site. "Scarface arrived with severe facial trauma, exposing her trachea and oesophagus, along with damaged fangs. After complex surgery and 11 months of recovery, including tube feeding and intensive care, she was released back into the wild—a testament to the resilience of wildlife and our team's dedication," he said.

3 SUICIDES ON LAST DAY OF YEAR

B'luru techie found dead in Hassan river

A software professional is believed to have committed suicide in Hassan on Wednesday.

Police sources said on Wednesday that the victim has been identified as 35-year-old Pramod, employee of a private company in Bengaluru.

According to police, Pramod, residing at Indiranagar, had left home leaving behind his phone on December 29 and never returned.

The worried parents and family after enquiring with friends and searching everywhere had lodged a police complaint with KR Puram police station.Meanwhile, locals had observed an abandoned vehicle near the Hemavathi River in Hassan district.

After finding the phone numbers from the bank passbooks and records kept in the vehicle, they had informed Pramod's parents.

The local police were also contacted and a search operation was launched by the fire department and emergency services in the Hemavathi River.

Finally, the body of the young man was found on Wednesday morning. According to the police, Pramod had jumped into the Hemavathi River near Gorurushettihalli in the limits of Aluru police station and ended his life.

Sources further stated that the wife had arrived with their baby and her family to identify the body of Pramod.

The family of Pramod strongly objected to the wife and her family members' presence and reportedly chased them away from the spot.

The police immediately rushed and rescued Pramod's wife, her mother and took them to a safe place.

The matter is under investigation and the police are recording the statements of both sides of the family.

An official statement is yet to be made in this case by the police and more details are yet to emerge.

However, coming at the heels of a techie's suicide alleging harassment by his wife's family, this latest case is expected to add to the debate that has been raging on. **IANS**

25-year-old woman kills self

A 25-year-old woman was found dead at her residence in Mallasandra, around 9 pm on Tuesday. Though the woman, Ruchita, is believed to have died of suicide, no death note was discovered at the scene.

Ruchita, employed as a junior executive at Biocon, was living with her parents, who work at a local cloth shop. Concerned after repeated calls to their daughter went unanswered, her parents rushed home to check on her. They were met with a harrowing sight as Ruchita was found hanging from a ceiling fan.

The incident has left the family and community in shock, with no clear indication of the reason behind the act. Bagalkunte police have registered a case and launched an investigation to determine the circumstances leading to Ruchita's death. **BMB**

Death of pet drives man to suicide

A man from Heggadevanpur village, 33-year-old Rajasekhar, ended his life on Wednesday between 1 am to 5 am following the death of his beloved German Shepherd, Bouncy.

A few years ago, Rajasekhar had brought Bouncy into his life, forming a deep bond with the dog. However, tragedy struck when Bouncy succumbed to a severe illness on Tuesday. Devastated, Rajasekhar performed the dog's last rites on his farm that evening.

The grief proved overwhelming, and on Wednesday morning, Rajasekhar took the drastic step of ending his life using Bouncy's leash.

His lifeless body was discovered soon after, leaving his family and the local community in shock and mourning.

The Madanayakanahalli Police have registered a case and sent Rajasekhar's body to the Nelamangala Government Hospital for a post-mortem examination. **BMB**

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Atul suicide case: HC asks wife's bail plea be resolved by Jan 4

The High Court instructed the trial court to resolve the bail petition of Nikita Singhania on January 4, 2025. She faces charges of abetting her husband Atul Subhash's suicide.

On December 9, software engineer Atul Subhash was discovered deceased in his flat. He left behind a 24-page suicide note and a 90-minute video recording. Following allegations of harassment by Nikita and her family members in his note, police arrested Nikita, her mother, and brother. They remain under judicial custody.

The accused approached the High Court, challenging their arrest on grounds that proper arrest procedures were not followed.

During proceedings, whilst the additional state public prosecutor requested time for instructions, Nikita's lawyer informed the court about a habeas corpus petition filed by Atul's relatives, scheduled for Supreme Court hearing on January 7. The defence counsel emphasised that Nikita's judicial custody would prevent her from responding to the Supreme Court notice effectively.

Subsequently, Justice Hemant Chandanagoudar directed the trial court to conclude the bail petition proceedings on January 4. **BMB**

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No plan B, but city busy squeezing earth dry

There's no clarity on laws governing groundwater usage or tools to enforce such rules: Activists call for urgent groundwater management plans for city

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The Central Ground Water Board's (CGWB) recent report on overexploited groundwater resources in Bengaluru has prompted concerns among city-based activists and experts who say the report calls for urgent groundwater management plans for the city.

Experts say while the writing has been on the wall for decades, the state government is to be blamed for the crisis, owing to its inaction and dereliction of duty. "Bengaluru has been declared a notified area for decades, but the authorities concerned have not been imposing or implementing rules on ground. While commercial drilling without an NOC and use of groundwater for construction purposes is illegal and banned, every commercial construction site in the city has borewells. These wells are blatantly being used for construction and later on for commercial uses. There is absolute lawlessness," said Sandeep Anirudhan of Citizens' Agenda for Bengaluru.

'Despite certain bans, every commercial construction site in the city has borewells' (file photo)

Bangalore Mirror
Report shows Bengaluru has extracted 100% of its ground water in 2024, in urban parts almost 200% of groundwater has been extracted, leaving us with no groundwater for future use
PEER INTO THE ABYSS
Majority of water extracted is used for irrigation

BM's story on Jan 1 discussed CGWB's report that revealed Bengaluru Urban's groundwater usage is nearly 200%

Need for water demand management

Experts say water demand management is an important aspect given the overall volume of extraction is more than the total volume of recharge in Bengaluru. Some underline that while the Central Ground Water Board rules have been updated with much stricter clauses, the state government is averse to adopting them.

Anirudh further said that the state government has not given any clarity on the laws governing groundwater usage and the machinery to enforce groundwater rules. "Karnataka has not even implemented the earlier rule and is also not willing to do so. There is no clarity on how permissions are to be obtained and authorities to take suo moto action against violators. There is a deliberate lack of clarity; due to this, violations thrive, and a huge bribery racket is on the back of it. The only other explanation is that the Karnataka Ground Water Authority is staffed by misfits," added Anirudhan.

> **"B'luru has been declared a notified area for decades, but authorities concerned have not been implementing rules on ground** – Sandeep Anirudhan, Citizens' Agenda for Bengaluru

City has used up 100% of its groundwater: Report

BM's story on Tuesday titled 'Peer into the abyss' discussed the CGWB's report on the National Compilation on Dynamic Ground Water Resources of India, 2024. The report highlighted that Bengaluru has overexploited its groundwater resources by extracting 100% of its groundwater in 2024. The assessment was conducted on 10 units in the Bengaluru rural district and 20 units in the urban district. It stated that while the current stage of groundwater extraction in Bengaluru rural is more than 147%, it is nearing 200% in the case of Bengaluru urban, leading to zero net groundwater availability for future use.

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Clear the path

Jayanagar

A builder has completely occupied the footpath with construction materials and debris at Jayanagar 3rd Block, 8th F Main Road, creating problems for pedestrians. When confronted, the builder arrogantly dismissed concerns, stating, "Who are you to object?" and pointed out the lack of action from the authorities concerned.

Footpath woes

Richmond Road

This pavement near Richmond Circle on Richmond Road, dug up presumably to lay cables, has remained in a poor state for nearly a year, creating a major inconvenience for pedestrians.

All rules are meant to be broken... on B'luru roads

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

risks." Fatal accidents decreased by 1.26%, and non-fatal accidents saw a significant reduction of 4.57%. Similarly, deaths caused by accidents dropped by 1.90%, showcasing the effectiveness of various safety measures. Despite these encouraging trends, the number of self-accidents (fatal) experienced a slight increase of 3.34%, rising from 209 cases in 2023 to 212 in 2024.

Police said that the reduction in total accidents can be attributed to targeted interventions, such as the identification and rectification of accident-prone black spots, stricter enforcement of traffic regulations, and widespread awareness campaigns. Measures aimed at protecting vulnerable road users, particularly pedestrians, played a significant role in improving safety. Pedestrian deaths dropped by an impressive 23.17%, highlighting the success of focussed efforts in ensuring safer walking environments.

However, the increase in self-accidents raises concerns that warrant attention. "Contributing factors include driver fatigue, overconfidence in handling vehicles, and distractions such as mobile phone use while driving. These incidents often occur in isolated situations, making it crucial to address the underlying behavioural aspects through education, stricter penalties, and technological solutions like advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS). By addressing these issues, Bengaluru can aim for further reductions in self-accidents while maintaining progress in overall road safety," an official added.

BMRCL plans to expand facility to other stations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Need addressed

In recent years, the number of families using metro services in Bengaluru has grown significantly. With mothers often traveling long distances with young children, the lack of appropriate facilities for feeding or attending to babies has been a challenge. The introduction of these baby feeding cells is a step towards making public spaces in Bengaluru more accommodating for mothers and children.

Dr Preeth Shetty, consultant-paediatrics, explained how this initiative supports the physical needs of the infants and as well as reduces stress for mothers. "Breast feeding is the right of the baby and we need exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of age. Following that weaning, food needs to be given for hungry infants. To make this possible mother and baby needs a safe, silent, clean environment with adequate privacy. Such facilities are essential in all our public spaces and initiative by BMRCL is a welcome move. We public should support the project by helping them to keep the feeding cell clean and serene," Dr Shetty said.

Expanding to more stations

Currently, baby feeding cells are available at several major metro stations, including Kengeri, Byappana-halli, Majestic, and Yelachenahalli. BMRCL officials have announced plans to extend these facilities to all major interchange and terminal stations by the end of the year.

A majority of the metro stations in Bengaluru still lack dedicated lactation rooms, while progress has been made with the introduction of baby feeding centers at certain metro stations, comprehensive facilities across the entire network are still under development.

"Our goal is to ensure a comfortable and hassle-free travel experience for all commuters, including families with young children. Feedback from passengers has been overwhelmingly positive,

> **Currently, baby feeding cells are available at several metro stations, including Kengeri, Majestic, Byappanahalli, and Yelachenahalli**

and we're committed to expanding this service," said a senior BMRCL official.

NYE spirits: 513 drunk driving cases in one night

4 people dead, 6 injured in accidents; stray cases of harassment, assault during course of partying

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New Year's Eve celebrations at Brigade Road on Tuesday

As the city bid farewell to 2024, a sobering reality emerged with a total of 513 drunk driving cases reported in just one night, some resulting in fatalities.

According to data released by the traffic police, 2024 witnessed a staggering 23,574 drunk driving cases during special drives. The year also recorded 4,784 accidents, of which 871 were fatal and 3,913 non-fatal. A total of 893 people died, and 4,052 were injured.

On New Year's Eve, accidents claimed four lives and injured six.

A late-night drive turned fatal near Janata Colony on Tavarekere Road, when a car carrying a group of friends overturned around 2:45 am. The crash claimed the lives of Manju (31) and Kiran (30) on the spot. The group was returning to Bengaluru after a celebration over coffee. Six others sustained severe injuries and were rushed to a hospital. Authorities are investigating the cause of the accident.

A car carrying three young men and a woman collided with electric poles near Bellandur Lake. The group was returning from a party in Koramangala, when the driver lost control at a sharp turn and struck three poles. As the airbags got deployed, the injuries were not severe.

A car crashed into a divider around 2 am near Bannerghatta. Police officials noticed the wreckage, but no complaints were filed.

Four men returning from a party crashed into a stationary canter near Sathanur bus stop in Kanakapura. Of them two died, while the other two suffered severe injuries and are undergoing treatment in a private hospital.

On women's safety

Some issues were also recorded due to intoxicated revellers. Key celebration zones, including MG Road, Brigade Road, and Church Street, were bustling with crowds. Despite heavy police presence, groups of revellers were seen dancing in a drunken stupor.

An inebriated man is said to have misbehaved with a young woman near the HDFC junction in Koramangala. The crowd intervened, reprimanding the offender for his actions.

Police and safety teams worked tirelessly to maintain order. The Ranichennamma Pade, Police Squad escorted women to cabs and ensured their safe transit. About the extensive preparations, DCP (Central division) Shekhar H Tekkannavar said, "The biggest challenge was ensuring women's safety. We set up 12 women safety islands and arranged assistance for those unable to walk. To prevent distress, we illuminated shadow areas with temporary lights and deployed 20 umbrella fans, 19 watchtowers, two control rooms, and extensive CCTV coverage. The proactive measures paid off, ensuring the majority of the celebrations were peaceful."

A sexual harassment case has been registered against a man for alleged indecent behaviour against a woman on Tuesday. The young woman, who hails from Odisha, was allegedly offered to drink alcohol by a man at a pub in Bellandur. When she refused, the man is said to have misbehaved with her. The pub staff reached the spot immediately, but the man escaped.

Man assaulted

A drunken altercation escalated into violence in the early hours of Tuesday near Ganesha Mandir in KP Agrahara, leaving a man injured. Kushal, the victim, was allegedly hit with a hard object by unidentified assailants during the commotion at 2.30 am. He is currently undergoing treatment, sources said. "The victim was struck with a stone. Glass pieces were found at the scene, leading to the suspicion that a bottle may have been used. The exact motive for the attack is still unknown," an official said.

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Poster campaign aftermath: FIR filed against 13 BJP leaders

An FIR has been filed against 13 BJP leaders, including Vidhan Parishad Opposition Leader Chalavadi Narayana Swamy and members CT Ravi and N Ravikumar, following their involvement in a poster campaign targeting Minister Priyank Kharge. The incident, which took place on Race Course Road in Bengaluru, has led to allegations of illegal assembly and public obstruction in connection with the suicide of contractor Sachin Panchal in Bidar district.

Poster campaign by BJP leaders & workers on Tuesday

Vannoor Police Station officer Sashidhar received reports on the morning of December 31, 2024, about an illegal gathering of BJP party leaders and workers near Madhavnagar Junction on Raystores Road, causing a public nuisance. At around 10 am, patrol officers, including ASI Padakshari, AHC Sri Santhosh, and PC Gaudappa Mali, responded to the situation, arriving at the scene in around 10 minutes.

The gathering, led by BJP leader Bhalawadhi Narayana Swamy, consisted of approximately 10-12 individuals who obstructed traffic and shouted slogans demanding Kharge's resignation. Posters were also found pasted on the wall of a public toilet at the junction, criticising the Congress government. Despite repeated warnings to the gathered group to cease creating public disruption and to remove the posters, the actions continued.

The gathering caused significant disruption to traffic flow, and the leaders involved, including Ravikumar, Umesh Shetty, Shivakumar, and others, were accused of hindering the smooth movement of public vehicles. Additionally, the incident led to public property damage with the unauthorised display of political posters.

The complainant, Sashidhar, has requested appropriate legal action against the individuals involved, including Narayana Swamy, for causing the disturbance and damaging public property. The situation remains under investigation by the Vannoor Police. **–BMB**

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Post-party clean-up

Citizens walk 7 km of CBD streets to find it spic and span just hours after NYE revelry — all thanks to pourakarmikas, volunteers

These warriors DESERVE AN AFTER-PARTY

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

More than 25 citizens started 2025 at 7 am with a 7-km footpath walk through the Central Business District. Till a few hours earlier, tens of thousands of partygoers and revellers occupied the city centre streets of Bengaluru - MG Road, Brigade Road. Church Street, St Mark's Road, and the walkers expected to see mounds of trash littering the streets.

To their surprise, the streets were spic-and-span, the footpaths were clean and walkable, and the group had a pleasant walk on the first morning of 2025. This walk was part of a TRASHure Hunt, a regular ritual from the past few years on New Year's Day, where the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) invites citizens to walk the streets in the 'Party Zone' on January 1 morning to check on how clean it is. And 2025 did not disappoint.

The walk was led by Arun Pai, founder, BangaloreWALKS. The walk started at Trinity Circle on MG Road at 7am, and covered parts of MG Road, Richmond Road, Residency Road, St Marks Road, Church Street, Brigade Road, Museum Road and adjoining areas. At the end, the group met Team BBMP at St Marks Road, and complimented them for their all-night effort. Team BBMP had been at work since 3 am to ensure the streets were clean by sunrise.

More than 25 citizens participated in the TRASHure Hunt on Wednesday morning. The team met and applauded the all-night efforts of the civic workers

Appreciating the BBMP pourakarmikas, Pai said the efforts taken by the police to manage the crowd and by the BBMP to clean up after the party are commendable. "We are often quick to criticise - it was nice to see 25 citizens from across Bengaluru to come bright and early with the express purpose of walking through the streets and seeing the impact of BBMP work," Pai said.

Jimmy Xavier from Hennur told BM that he came to know about the TRASHure Hunt through Pai. "I am happy to come from Hennur to MG Road in the morning. The clean roads led me to believe nothing happened last night. The pourakarmikas have done a great job," said Xavier.

Madhukar Raju, one of the participants, appreciated the efforts of the pourakarmikas. "The magic behind the spotless streets was the tireless effort of our pourakarmikas who began their work at 3 am ensuring the city could wake up to a cleaner, brighter start to 2025," said Raju.

BBMP assistant executive engineer C Appuraj appreciated the police for imposing restrictions on street vendors. "There was no dry waste on Church Street and Brigade Road due to the restrictions on street vendors," Appuraj said.

Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) Assistant General Manager Ravi Kumar said that around 70 pourakarmikas participated in the cleaning programme. "We used three garbage compactors and 25 auto tippers to clear the garbage," said Ravi Kumar.

Plog on!

The Indian Ploggers Army marked the beginning of the new year with their annual plogging event on Brigade Road. The event, which started in the early hours, saw volunteers join hands with BBMP marshals and pourakarmikas to clear heaps of litter left behind after New Year celebrations.

"Every year on January 1, we take up plogging as a humble way to thank the waste pickers' community and set eco-friendly trends for the year by owning our streets," said Raj, founder of the Indian Ploggers Army.

The overnight efforts of the BBMP team cleared a truckload of waste from the iconic Brigade Road. Volunteers who joined the initiative in the morning hours collected an additional seven large bags of litter, including liquor bottles, tetra packs, plastic bottles, and food wrappers scattered across the street corners. "It was disheartening to see the sheer amount of waste, but it was also heartening to witness the dedication of the pourakarmikas," shared a volunteer who participated in the event. The plogging event also aimed to honour the silent warriors of waste management—the pourakarmikas. "Huge respect to the pourakarmikas. Their overnight efforts are often overlooked, but their work keeps our city running," said another volunteer.

The group hopes their efforts inspire others to adopt sustainable practices and support waste pickers and cleaners. "This small gesture is our way of thanking them and starting the year on a positive, responsible note," Raj said.

— Iffath Fathima

15 metric tonnes of waste swept off

Guess how much waste does New Year's Eve celebration at MG Road generate? Approximately 15 metric tonnes of waste and debris scattered on the roads surrounding MG Road was collected on Wednesday, the morning after the celebrations.

A BBMP team under the leadership of East Zone Commissioner Snehal and Basavaraj Kabade, Chief General Manager of BSWML, carried out a thorough cleanup operation early in the morning along the city's CBD roads that had been littered.

The waste collection was supervised by the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Regular Division. The cleaning process began at 3 am and was completed by 7 am, covering roads including MG Road, Brigade Road, Church Street, Residency Road, Richmond Road, St. Mark's Road, and Kasturba Road.

The cleanup operation was carried out by the Solid Waste Division from the Shantinagar area, with involvement of over 70 municipal workers. Junior health officers and marshals supervised the operation, and 25 auto-tippers and three compactors were deployed on-site.

An official said, "Plastic covers, plastic waste, slippers, glass bottles, and other unusable materials discarded along the CBD roads and pedestrian paths were segregated and collected. Around 3 tonnes of recyclable waste were sent to the dry waste collection unit for further processing." A round 25 local air traffic personnel ensured the cleanliness of the area surrounding MG Road by inspecting all roads within a 7-km radius from 7 am. BMB

Honouring Achievers to Inspire Society

Recognising and honouring achievers in society is a rare but impactful act. Retired Lokayukta Justice N. Santosh Hegde, speaking at the 'VK Achievers of Bangalore-2024' awards ceremony held at a private hotel in the city recently, emphasised the importance of honouring such individuals for their contribution to society. He stated, "When people in life imbibe two important qualities—human values and contentment—they find true meaning. No matter how great a person is, without human values, life holds no worth. Greed is the root of corruption. To live a healthy life, we must avoid greed and find satisfaction in the life we have. If we do not, the consequences of greed will destroy our lives."

Retired Lokayukta Justice N Santosh Hegde inaugurating the programme

Justice Hegde also spoke about the continuing prevalence of corruption and the importance of questioning unfairness and corruption in order to bring about change. He stressed the need to focus on social values, especially for the younger generation, as outlined by Kuvempu, who said we must first be human. "This award should empower the winners to continue their social work with even greater strength," he added.

Actress Sudharani, sharing her thoughts, said, "Achieving success in life is tough and requires overcoming several challenges. To all the awardees, may you continue to accomplish even greater feats. In today's social media age, reading newspapers and books has become less common, which is not a positive development. I firmly believe that people will return to reading newspapers and books, tired of social media."

Deepak Saluja, CEO of Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror said, "Bengaluru has earned significant recognition, including being called Silicon City and the capital of startups. It is contributing greatly to the country's GDP, and the hard work of achievers like those honoured today is a significant factor in that. Through these awards, we aim to support and encourage further accomplishments." Sudharsan Channangihalli, editor of VK shared, "Vijay Karnataka is actively engaged in various social initiatives, like recognising progressive farmers through the 'Superstar Raitha' program and alleviating students' fear of exams with 'Vijayibhava'. The 'Achievers of Bengaluru' program is yet another initiative to honor those who have made significant contributions in various fields." These inspiring achievers, meticulously identified through a rigorous survey conducted in partnership with Marketlytics, were celebrated for their unparalleled commitment and transformative contributions.

> It's true that receiving an award increases one's responsibilities. May achievers guide society on the right path and inspire the emergence of more achievers."
>
> – Sudha Rani, Renowned Actress

> Life comes with both hardships and joys. Overcoming these challenges without letting them hinder our achievements is not easy. Congratulations to all the awardees."
>
> – Pruthvi Ambaar, Renowned Actor

From Serving the Nation to Building Dreams

Amit Kumar, a former defense personnel who served his country on the battlefield, has now transitioned into a successful real estate entrepreneur. He is the director of Shri Aaditya Dweller Pvt. Ltd and Madhutech Realty, and his journey into entrepreneurship is nothing short of inspiring. Originally from Bihar, Amit Kumar completed his full education there before joining the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in 2003. After two years of service, he was selected for the elite National Security Gaurd(NSG) in 2005, where he served the nation until 2015. After resigning, he ventured into the real estate industry.

Amit Kumar, Director, Shri Aaditya Dweller Pvt. Ltd.

A Vision to Create Jobs

Amit's drive to become self-reliant and provide employment led him to enter the real estate sector. In 2015, he founded Madhutech Realty and later Shri Aaditya Dweller Pvt. Ltd. He also established the Para Military Forces Welfare Society, a non-profit initiative aimed at providing housing to members without any profit expectations, earning widespread admiration for his efforts.

Support for Success

Amit Kumar's success story has been supported by Mr. Binod Kumar Singh, an IPS officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, who played a key role in helping him achieve his dreams. His wife, Madhu, a senior executive at a prestigious IT firm, has been a constant pillar of support since the inception of the company.

Empowering Communities

Amit Kumar has successfully completed group housing projects in Bihar and Jharkhand, and is currently overseeing the development of another project in Bengaluru's Bagalur Industrial Area under the name 'NVG Rakshak'. He has plans to expand to Noida and Dehradun in the future. His goal is to provide quality services across the country, fulfilling the housing needs of the people.

Tailored to Customers' Dreams

What sets Amit Kumar's companies apart is their commitment to designing buildings according to the unique preferences of their clients. Emphasizing quality construction and on-time project completion, his companies have earned the trust of their customers.

Giving Back to Society

Amit Kumar's background in the defense sector has shaped his deep commitment to social service. He actively contributes financially to communities affected by natural disasters such as floods and droughts, providing essential support to those in need.

NVG Rakshak

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An Entrepreneur with a Heart for Society

K.S. Ashwathnarayana is not just a successful industrialist but also a dedicated social worker, blending his business acumen with a commitment to societal betterment. Based in Peenya, he has created hundreds of job opportunities through his industry. Born in the village of Kondadadi in the Tumkur district, Ashwathnarayana completed his primary education at Oxford School in the outskirts of Bengaluru. He went on to finish his high school education at Karnataka Vidyavardhaka Sangha in Vijayanagar. Later, he pursued his PU studies at Maharaja and KLE colleges before earning a degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Malnad Engineering College in Hassan.

SERVICE ACROSS NUMEROUS ORGANIZATIONS
Ashwathnarayana's commitment to societal serviceextends across many organizations. He currently holds several significant positions: State Vice-President of Laghu Udyog Bharati; President of the Rotary Peenya Unit; President of Sneha Aishwarya Foundation Trust

The Beginning of a Legacy in Industry

After completing his education, Ashwathnarayana initially worked in the field of electric transformer production. In 1997, leveraging his own experiences, he established a manufacturing unit for electric transformers. His company has since become a key supplier to KPTCL, all ESCOMs, and the private sector. His excellence in the industry has earned him prestigious accolades such as the Best Transformer Manufacturer Award in 2010 and the MSME Excellence Award in 2012.

In the past, he has served as:

- President of Peenya Gymkhana (2014-2017)
- Council Member of Peenya Industrial Association (2008-2012)
- Chairman of the Banking, BESCOM, and KPTCL Committees
- Council Member of KASSIA
- Ex-Treasurer of KASSIA (2010-2014)

A Beacon of Light for the Less Fortunate

Beyond his entrepreneurial success, Ashwathnarayana is deeply involved in humanitarian work, particularly focused on helping the homeless. His dedication to various social causes is supported by his wife, who has been a pillar of strength in his endeavors. He has worked tirelessly for the upliftment of society, providing not only employment but also hope to those in need.

Championing the Cause of MSMEs

As the President of the North Bengaluru chapter of Laghu Udyog Bharati, Ashwathnarayana has initiated several programs to encourage industrialists and entrepreneurs. He is a vocal advocate for the protection and growth of the MSME sector, consistently raising awareness about its challenges to both state and central governments. He is actively involved in industry associations and works on improving policies to aid MSME businesses. One of his key goals is to amend the KASSIA regulations and expedite the completion of the KASSIA Centre for Excellence. He also aims to increase the market recognition of MSMEs in both local and export markets through government interventions.

K.S. Ashwathnarayana, Vice President of Laghu Udyog Bharati, Karnataka

Ashwathnarayana's journey from a budding entrepreneur to a recognized social figure highlights his unique ability to combine business with community welfare, creating opportunities for many and uplifting society as a whole. His leadership and dedication continue to shape the industrial and social landscape of Bengaluru.

A New Dawn in Education

Prestige Group of Institutions Leading the Way

In an era where quality education in well-equipped private schools remains a distant dream for the middle class, the Prestige Group of Institutions has ushered in a revolution. Providing world-class international education accessible to this segment, the institution has become a beacon of hope for many, thanks to the visionary leadership of K. Anjinappa.

Prestige Group of Institutions: Transforming Education

Currently operating institutions in Rampura, Hennur, and the Arkavathy Layout, Prestige Group of Institutions is also preparing to launch a PU College. K. Anjinappa, hailing from Rampura in Bengaluru East, laid the foundation for this journey by establishing the New Baldwin School in Geddalahalli in 2002. In 2015, he inaugurated the Prestige International School in Rampura, followed by Presco Kids in Arkavathy Layout in 2022. Today, the group serves over 1,500 students and employs more than 200 dedicated staff members.

K Anjinappa, President, Prestige Group of Institutions

Empowering Underprivileged Students

Committed to inclusivity, Prestige Group of Institutions provides free education to underprivileged children. Additionally, scholarships and financial aid are extended to deserving students. The schools prioritise extracurricular activities alongside academics, nurturing talents in cultural and sports domains. The dedicated family behind this success includes his wife Ramadevi, daughter Lasya, son Dhruva Kumar, and son-in-law Prashanth Anand, who contribute to the growth of the institution.

Future Vision: A Sports Village and More

Now, Anjinappa envisions building a state-of-the-art Sports Village on a 10-acre plot in Kadagrahara. The facility will feature an international-standard swimming pool, a running track, and other advanced amenities to help students excel in sports. Plans are also in place to establish another well-equipped school and a hostel at the same location.

Driving Community Progress

As the General Secretary of the Karnataka Balija Sangha, K. Anjinappa actively works toward the upliftment of the community, reinforcing his commitment to holistic development.

PU College: The Next Milestone

The group is gearing up to launch a PU College, with permissions from various authorities in progress. This move marks yet another step toward fulfilling Prestige Group's mission of delivering quality education and empowering future generations. By merging visionary leadership, robust infrastructure, and a commitment to community welfare, Prestige Group of Institutions' chairman K Anjinappa is reshaping education for the middle class and beyond.

A Success Story of Grit, Vision, & Real Estate Innovation

From a setback in his career to becoming the founder of a successful real estate company, Kiran Joshua is a true testament to the power of perseverance and vision. Facing financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic, Kiran asked his employer for a small advance of 5,000. When the request was denied, Kiran made a bold decision to leave the job and start his own real estate company. His vision became a reality with the founding of Bhandhan Properties.

Kiran Joshua, CEO, Bhandhan Properties

Bandhan Properties: A Legacy of Trust and Growth

Today, Bhandhan Properties' operates across the northern parts of Bengaluru, dealing with site sales, homes, villas, apartments, and other real estate transactions. What started just four years ago in a small rented space has grown into a prominent business with its own office in the vicinity of Bagalur. From a 5,000 advance request to managing 80 crore in business transactions, Kiran's journey reflects how vision, determination, and a strong work ethic can lead to remarkable success. In just four years, the company has registered 150 properties.

Bhandhan Properties
BINDING TO BUILD

Building Trust in Real Estate

In Bengaluru, the real estate industry is often associated with fear due to fraudulent practices by some companies. However, Kiran Joshua's Bhandhan Properties has won the trust of its customers by offering transparent services. In the past four years, the company has registered 164 sites and established a separate legal team to verify the authenticity of property documents. Clients can seek legal advice on any property they wish to purchase, ensuring peace of mind and security.

Smart Investment Advice

Kiran Joshua firmly believes that land and gold are among the best investment options. He encourages the public to invest in land, particularly in the northern parts of Bengaluru, where site prices range from 2,000 to 7,000 per square foot. Bhandhan Properties offers high-quality investment opportunities in prime locations.

Easy Financing Options

Bhandhan Properties has partnerships with 23 nationalised banks, making it easy for customers to secure loans for property purchases. No more running around to different banks—customers can easily obtain loans with up to 70-80% financing on each property.

Current Projects

- Siri Tail Wood
- Bandhan Silver
- Aero Spandana-3
- Golden Crest
- Trusted by 1,350 Customers
- 11,265 Successful Projects Completed

The Difference Between a Job and Entrepreneurship

Kiran Joshua emphasizes that working for a company is vastly different from running your own business. With Bhandhan Properties, customers place their trust in the company, knowing that the documentation is clear and the investments are solid. Real estate investments, particularly land, offer high returns in a relatively short period. Bhandhan Properties is always ready to provide customers with the best properties, ensuring satisfaction and growth.

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Unosafe Elevators: Redefining Safety and Excellence in Vertical Transport

Unosafe Elevator Pvt. Ltd., a distinguished name in the Indian elevator industry, is now poised to expand its operations internationally. With branches in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra, the company has successfully installed over 2,000 elevators across India. Boasting a state-of-the-art manufacturing unit and a team of dedicated professionals, Unosafe delivers products that meet international standards. The company invites the younger generation with a passion for innovation and cutting-edge technology to join hands in shaping the future.

UNOSAFE
ELEVATOR PVT LTD

Unosafe Elevator Pvt. Ltd. has built a stellar reputation through its involvement in prestigious projects such as Pashmina Brookwoods, Pyramid Builders & Developers, National Games Village Complex, APMC Shivamogga, L&T Industries, Mista Infa Pvt. Ltd., Brigade Orchards, Podar International School, Assets Villa, Vivechana Constructions, and ONGC Gujarat. Each of these projects highlights Unosafe's commitment to excellence, innovation, and reliability.

With the esteemed "Asia's Top Brand" title, Unosafe is proudly recognized as Karnataka's No. 1 elevator brand. Its focus on delivering unmatched safety features, superior quality, and exceptional service distinguishes it in the industry. Additionally, Unosafe's elevators are known for their minimal breakdowns and prompt, dependable service, making it the preferred choice for customers seeking quality and peace of mind. Unlike many competitors, Unosafe refrains from gimmicky promotions and instead focuses on providing objective, reliable solutions. While its products may be priced slightly higher than others, the investment is justified by the unparalleled safety and quality it ensures. Unosafe is committed to delivering tailored solutions by conducting a thorough site analysis before installation. From determining the ideal lift size to ensuring the highest safety standards, the company leaves no stone unturned to provide a seamless experience.

Awards and Recognition

Unosafe Elevator Pvt. Ltd. has received over 10 awards and accolades for its commitment to safety and quality, including:

- Icon of India Business Award (2021)
- IIB Best Passenger Elevator Manufacturers Award (2022)
- Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya IE Award (2023)
- Safest and Fastest Growing Elevator Brand Award by The Economic Times (2024)
- Times of India Award (2024)
- Reality of the Quarter Award, Mumbai (2024)
- Elevator World India Article & Recognition (2024)
- Felicitation by Ramalinga Reddy (Government of Karnataka)
- Achievers of Bengaluru Award by Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror (2024)
- Customer-Centric Approach

Deepak Poojary, Founder, MD, Unosafe Elevator Pvt. Ltd.

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From Humble Beginnings to Empowering Thousands with Grand Aeon Security Management

D Mahant, the visionary founder & Managing Director, Grand Aeon Security Management Pvt. Ltd has transformed his life and the lives of thousands, becoming a beacon of hope and opportunity for many. Originally from an agricultural family in Odisha, Mahant moved to Bengaluru 21 years ago with the simple aim of filling sacs. Starting as a supervisor at a security company, he quickly rose through the ranks to become a security officer and later an assistant manager.

However, witnessing the plight of educated young individuals from low and middle-income backgrounds struggling to find work, Mahant was driven to start something of his own. That was the beginning of Grand Aeon Security Management, which has since become a renowned and certified organisation providing professional services to its clients.

Creating Jobs for Thousands

Grand Aeon Security Management not only provides security guards to various companies but also offers housekeeping services to clients and organisations. Expanding beyond Bengaluru, the company has branches in Chennai, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, and Ballari. Today, Grand Aeon Security Management serves over 378 companies, employing thousands of individuals. The company has also placed 3,685 security guards, 300 of whom are women. In addition, all employees are provided with benefits like PF and ESI. Their office in Indiranagar employs around 38 people and provides accommodation to those in need.

Social Service and Recognition

Mahant has also contributed to social causes, including providing support to a school for blind students in Whitefield. For his contributions, he has received the Indian Iconic Brand and Leader Award.

Key Features of Grand Aeon

- Security Management
- ISO Certified Security Services
- Pan India Security Services
- Trained Male and Female Staff
- Professional Housekeeping Services
- Constant Customer Feedback System

Pride in Kannada

Although originally from Odisha, Mahant is proud to have learned Kannada. He has provided employment to a large number of Kannada-speaking individuals and praises the expansive heart of the Kannada people. He proudly identifies himself as a Kannadiga.

D Mahant, Managing Director, Grand Aeon Security Management Pvt. Ltd.

A Beacon of Dedication, Service, and Leadership

Dibbur Jayanna, a remarkable personality who has made a name for himself in agriculture, social service, sports, spirituality, politics, and community welfare, hails from a farmer's family in Dibbur, a village in the Yelahanka, Benglauru Urban district. His life story is one of continuous dedication to the betterment of society, guided by his unshakable values and the desire to create meaningful change.

Born on August 2, 1969 to Sanjeevaiah and Gowramma, Jayanna was the eldest of twin children in the family. Despite his modest beginnings, Jayanna's family was a beautiful blend of love and togetherness, with his wife Shylaja, and their two children, Kushal and Kishore. Jayanna pursued his early education in Jalahalli Government School from grades 5 to 10, followed by PUC at Yelahanka Pre-University College, and completed his B.A from Government's Arts College, Bengaluru. Though an educated man, Jayanna chose to carry on his family's agricultural profession, focusing primarily on grape farming, alongside a variety of other fruit cultivation.

From an early age, Jayanna was greatly influenced by the teachings of Swami Vivekananda and the ideals of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda. His commitment to eradicating social issues and improving society led him to dedicate his efforts to these causes. Living by the motto, "Rise, awake, and do not stop until your goal is achieved," inspired by Vivekananda, Jayanna embodies determination and perseverance, refusing to give up until he reaches his objectives.

A Strong Advocate of Nationalism and Politics

From his youth, Jayanna was drawn to nationalistic ideals, which led him to join the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) during his student years. His involvement with the RSS instilled in him a deep sense of nationalism. This journey into politics was further propelled in 1991-92 when Jayanna officially entered the political arena through the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a transition encouraged by his connections within the party.

Guided by the mentorship of BJP leaders like B.S. Yediyurappa and the support of MLA S.R. Vishwanath, Jayanna found his place in the political world. Known for his determination and strategic thinking, Jayanna's experience as a kabaddi player helped him learn to tackle challenges head-on. His humble and affable nature made him a beloved figure in his community, where he is seen as a social worker responding to the needs and struggles of the people.

Commitment to Education and Empowerment

Jayanna's influence extends beyond politics. His commitment to improving education and empowering marginalised sections of society has been a cornerstone of his work. He annually distributes learning materials to underprivileged students and provides training and support to women to improve their livelihoods. His efforts to uplift farmers' lives have also garnered recognition, with his contributions to the community creating a strong foundation for his political career.

A Passion for Arts and Humanitarianism

Though predominantly known for his political and social work, Jayanna also made his mark in the world of theatre and arts. He acted in Kurukshetra, a play in which he performed 75 times in the role of Bhima, impressing audiences with his powerful portrayal. He also appeared in Kannada films like 'Chikkapete Sachagalu' and has showcased his talent on television shows. With a strong belief in the power of art to inspire, Jayanna has further enriched the community through his humanitarian efforts. He has donated blood over 150 times, demonstrating his commitment to humanity. Through his initiatives, including free blood donation camps, Jayanna continues to inspire youths to contribute to the greater good. His influence extends beyond his political sphere, making him a respected figure not only in his community but across the region.

Dibbur Jayanna
Former President, Doddaballapura Planning Authority

From Herding Cattle to Becoming a Successful Entrepreneur

Well-known film producer E. Krishnappa's journey from humble beginnings to becoming a successful entrepreneur and film producer is a testament to perseverance, hard work, and self-belief. Born in 1959 in Adakamaranahalli, a village near Nelamangala, Krishnappa's life took a turn when his father suddenly passed away while he was still in school, forcing him to leave education at the 10th grade. With 20 acres of land and numerous cattle to tend to, Krishnappa balanced his work with farming, realising that managing both his livelihood and education was essential. Despite taking on multiple jobs, he often faced ridicule instead of recognition, but his determination never wavered.

E. Krishnappa, Film Producer & Politician, EK Entertainers

Entrepreneurial Spirit

In 1980, Krishnappa ventured into construction, working as a contractor, and soon expanded his business into the timber trade. His skills and hard work led him to become a PWD Class-4 contractor, and later, he earned the position of Class-3 contractor for National Highways. By 1987, he also supplied timber to Military Engineering Services (MES) on contract basis. His success continued with the launch of E.K. Garments Industry in 2001, which employed over 1,200 workers. Although the garment business didn't take off as expected, Krishnappa adapted by renting out the factory premises and later moved into ornamental plant cultivation, though that too was short-lived. Yet, with each setback, Krishnappa's entrepreneurial resilience grew stronger.

A Successful Film Producer

Krishnappa's journey took a surprising turn when he entered the film industry. Having known Ganesh (now known as 'Golden Star' Ganesh), who was like a son to him, Krishnappa was naturally inclined towards the arts. It was Ganesh who, with director Yogaraj Bhat, approached Krishnappa to produce "Mungaru Male", which went on to become a phenomenal success in 2006. This success marked the beginning of Krishnappa's film production career. In the years that followed, he produced several hit films, including "Mogginа Manasu" (2007), "Mathe Mungaru" (2010), and "Mungaru Male 2" (2016). Now, in collaboration with G. Gangadhar and director Yograj Bhat, Krishnappa is producing another romantic movie titled "Manada Kadalu". E. Krishnappa's life is a shining example of how hard work, resilience, and a heart full of service can create waves of change, impacting not only the business world but also communities in need.

Political and Social Service Contributions

Krishnappa's dedication to his community is not limited to his entrepreneurial and cinematic achievements. In 2007, he was elected as a member and later the president of APMC , where he played a pivotal role in transforming Adakamaranahalli into a model village. Though he unsucessfully contested the Assembly elections from Yelahanka in 2008 and 2010 under JD(S), his passion for social work never faltered. As an MLC, he worked on various social initiatives, including the development of government schools in his village, building a library at his own expense, and establishing a free hospital for cancer patients. Krishnappa's commitment to education is evident in his support for underprivileged students. He has personally funded the education of hundreds of students wishing to pursue degrees, CA, MBBS, and MBA. Additionally, he runs a charitable organisation in his mother's name, providing medical treatment to thousands of impoverished people. During the COVID-19 pandemic, his contributions and services were invaluable, and the people of Adakamaranahalli will never forget his support.

A Unique Journey of Social Service and Dedication

Lokesh G. Begur, a man with a heart full of service, grew up in poverty. He completed his primary education at Saint Teresa's School and his secondary education at the Government School in Begur. At the age of 14, he faced a difficult challenge with the sudden death of his father, which worsened the family's financial situation. His mother worked as a labourer to support the family, and Lokesh also joined in by contributing to the household. He worked at a dairy farm and later delivered newspapers as a paperboy while also starting an agency called Annapoorneshwari. Over time, he expanded his ventures by opening an STD booth. Along with his professional work, Lokesh also entered politics, winning the Begur Gram Panchayat elections three times, which marked the beginning of his social service journey.

Lokesh G. Begur, Entrepreneur and Social Worker

Today, Lokesh serves as a director at the dairy farm where he first started working, and he is also the proud owner of the bar where he once worked. In addition to his entrepreneurial ventures, Lokesh holds prestigious positions such as the president of the Government Higher Primary School Development and Monitoring Committee:and the president of the Government High School. At the age of 12, Lokesh was associated with RSS and, by 19, he founded the Spandana Gelyara Balaga, a social welfare organisation dedicated to supporting the community.

Through his organisation, Lokesh has initiated numerous activities, including organizing sports events, national festival celebrations, street plays, providing aid to the homeless, distributing educational supplies such as books and clothes to underprivileged school children, and encouraging students who score high in the SSLC exams. His dreams for the future include improving government school infrastructure with the help of generous donors, creating classrooms that inspire the next generation of leaders.

Preserving Kannada Culture

Lokesh has always been at the forefront of struggles related to Cauvery River water rights, and actively participates in the promotion and protection of the Kannada language and culture. Despite not having any political godfathers, his commitment to social service and advocacy stands out as a selfless effort.

SOCIAL WORK

In addition to his social work, Lokesh is also a Trustee at the historic Nagendra Temple, which has a history of over 1,300 years. He has shown immense care for girl students in government schools, distributing over 10,000 sanitary napkins to ensure their well-being. For the last 18 years, Lokesh has been the president of the Vajpayee Abhimana Balaga, organising a large-scale blood donation camp annually. He has served as the president of the Begur Vokaliga Sangha for eight years and participates in annual foot pilgrimages to Tirupati with his friends from Bengaluru. With the support of his friends, Lokesh established a petrol bunk, which continues to be a symbol of his commitment to community service. For Lokesh, social service is not just a part of life; it is his very essence.

Bringing Hope to the Underprivileged and Specially Abled

True to his name, Dr. Hrudayaraj A is a compassionate individual who has become a beacon of support for the underprivileged and specially-abled, just as his name signifies. Through the Shramajeevi Mother Teresa Charity Foundation, he has immersed himself in social service, drawing inspiration from Mother Teresa's ideals. His mission focuses on aiding the special children, the underprivileged, the sick, orphans, and those in distress. People often refer to him as 'Hrudayavanta Hrudayaraj' because he sees God in service and finds joy in helping others. The scope of Hrudayaraj's social work is immense. His foundation's primary goal is to extend a helping hand to those in need, regardless of their challenges.

Some of the ongoing initiatives include providing wheelchairs to the physically challenged, hand clutches to those with limited mobility, white sticks for the visually impaired, carts for street vendors, sarees for underprivileged women, uniforms for auto drivers, bicycles for school children, blankets for the homeless, meals for the hungry, and covering the treatment expenses for cancer patients. This list of services continues to grow. Notably, he also awards the Puneeth Rajkumar Best Student Award in memory of the late actor.

Dr. Hrudayaraj A, President, Shramajeevi Mother Teresa Datti Samsthe

Hrudayaraj shares, "For the fifth annual celebration of our foundation, we were blessed to have Sri Basavamurthy Madara Chennaiah Swamiji from Chitradurga, whose blessings gave us the strength to continue our social work with renewed vigor." During the COVID-19 pandemic, he earned recognition for his humanitarian efforts by distributing daily essentials to thousands of people. For his social contributions, Hrudayaraj was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Ezra University in Vellore, Tamil Nadu.

Following Father's Footsteps

Hrudayaraj recalls, "My father was actively involved in social service, and it was his wish that I carry forward his legacy. With the full support of my family, I am able to continue this service to society."

Through the Shramajeevi Mother Teresa Charity Foundation, Dr. Hrudayaraj is helping arrange weddings for specially-abled individuals, including the visually impaired. He expresses his desire to organiSe such weddings on Mother Teresa's birthday.

Continuing the Legacy of Mother Teresa

The Shramajeevi Mother Teresa Charity Foundation was inspired by Mother Teresa, the founder of the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata. Her compassion for the poor, the homeless, the disabled, the blind, leprosy patients, and the abandoned formed the foundation of this service. Emulating her ideals, Hrudayaraj established the foundation on May 11, 2017, continuing her legacy of selfless service.

A Beacon of Hope for the Differently-abled

Dr. Stephen, Founder & Executive Director-SHADE

Dr. Stephen, the Founder & Executive Director-SHADE has made a significant impact in the realm of social service, earning recognition for his unwavering dedication to the welfare of the differently-abled. Living by the mantra, "You are born on one day, you die on another; in between, you must do something good," Dr. Stephen has lived his life as an embodiment of this belief, working tirelessly to support those in need.

He has been a guiding light for the visually impaired, offering support to those with physical disabilities, and has devoted his life to making a difference in the lives of others. Born with physical challenges, Dr. Stephen overcame them with medical treatment and now dedicates himself to helping those who are still suffering. His deep understanding of their pain and struggles has driven him to actively contribute to society.

In recognition of his outstanding social work, Vellore's Ezra University awarded Dr. Stephen an honorary doctorate. He has also received the prestigious Kempegowda Award from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike. Dr. Stephen always remembers former Mayor Sampath Raj and Hrudayaraj for their continuous support in his journey. "I struggled to walk when I was born. After undergoing surgery, I became healthy. When I went to thank the surgeon, he said, 'Don't thank me. Help the differently-abled in any way you can. That is the best way you can thank me.' Inspired by his words, I decided to dedicate myself to service," shares Dr. Stephen.

Through the SHADE Foundation, which he started in 1998 in Nagenahalli, Dr. Stephen has extended a helping hand to people, regardless of caste, religion, or gender. "Don't pity the differently-abled. Instead, give them meaningful work they can do. There is no greater kindness than this," says Dr. Stephen. The foundation regularly provides essential medicines and daily necessities to those who cannot step outside and see the light of day. "Our dream for Shade Foundation is to initiate self-employment projects for the differently-abled. Many blind individuals have turned to begging as they have no opportunities for work. Self-employment will bring light into their lives, and we are working towards making this a reality," says Dr. Stephen. Dr. Stephen's efforts continue to inspire others and help build a more inclusive society where every individual, regardless of their challenges, can live a life of dignity and opportunity.

Bringing Multi-Specialty Healthcare to Rural People at Affordable Rates

In 2015, a group of six passionate individuals, driven by the vision of making multi-speciality hospital services accessible at discounted rates for rural populations, founded VP Magnus Hospital on the main road of Binnamangala in Nelamangala. Today, the hospital has become a household name in Nelamangala, securing the top spot as the most popular and patient-friendly hospital in the area.

The hospital features 48 beds, 3 ICU beds, and 3 ventilators. It is equipped with a lab, 2D scan ultrasound, digital X-ray, pharmacy services, ambulance facilities, and a state-of-the-art building. With a dedicated team of over 150 staff members, the hospital is committed to providing high-quality care at affordable rates. Dr. Praveen, one of the founders, shared that a portion of the hospital's profits is used to provide discounted treatment to underprivileged patients and to offer medical care for children with special needs and the visually impaired.

Specialties and Services at VP Magnus Hospital:

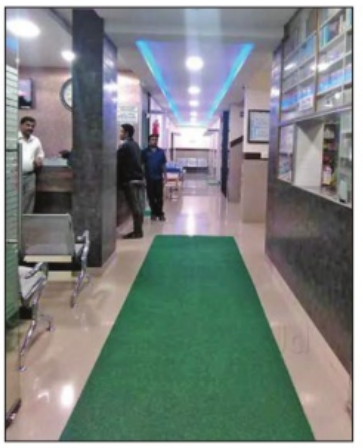
The hospital is managed by a team of skilled doctors, including Dr. Vikas, Dr. Praveen, Dr. Malavika, Mahesh, Dinesh, and Padmanabha, who lead several departments. The hospital provides treatment in various specialties, including General Medicine, General Surgery, Pediatrics, Orthopedics, Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Critical Care.

> "I became a doctor as per my mother Mrs Sujatha Mohan's wish. My father Mohan, and my friends helped in starting the hospital. My wife and inspiration Dr. Malavika, who joined as a partner, stood firmly by us. It was the support of the six friends that made VP Magnus Hospital stand strong. We have named the hospital after Vishnu Prashanth, the driving force behind its establishment."
> **Dr. Vikas, VP Magnus Hospital**

> "I initially aspired to become a teacher, but it was Dr. Vikas' inspiration that led me to become a doctor at VP Magnus Hospital. During the COVID-19 period, we took pride in providing treatment at rates lower than the government-prescribed rates."
> **Dr. Praveen, VP Magnus Hospital**

Insurance for Healthcare:

Dr. Vikas emphasised the importance of health insurance, stating, "While vehicle insurance is mandatory, health insurance is equally essential. In rural areas, many people do not have health insurance. We strongly advise that everyone must secure health insurance."



The Multifaceted Personality of Manjunath M

Manjunath M, a man of diverse passions, hails from a farming family in Vishwanathapura village, Yelahanka taluk, born to Muniyappa Reddy and Gauramma, the youngest of their five children. Manjunath completed his studies up to PUC and later embraced his father's agricultural career, emerging as a model farmer and earning recognition for his dedication to the community. He is married to Shobha, and together they have a beautiful family, which includes their daughter Gayana and son Hitesh.

Owning 20 acres of land near Hulikunte, close to Vishwanathapura and Doddbelavangala, Manjunath focusses on agriculture and livestock farming. His key crops include coconut, grapes, areca nut, and mangoes, while he also raises goats, sheep, and poultry. He is known for raising Jamunapuri goats. In the real estate sector, Manjunath has made his mark by focussing on the construction of residential layouts aimed at the middle and lower-income groups.

Manjunatha M,
Addevishwanathapura, Progressive Farmer and Farmer Leader

Every year, he continues his tradition of distributing notebooks to school and college students, including those at P.K.B. College in Marasandra, Yelahanka, where he studied. He is also a member of the Development Advisory Committee for Yelahanka Government PU College, contributing significantly to its development. In 2022, the college set a record for the highest number of student enrollments in the state, making Yelahanka PU College a model for educational excellence.

Realising that social service often requires political influence, Manjunath became associated with Yelahanka MLA S.R. Vishwanath's circle and the BJP. In 2015, he was elected as a member of the Rajanukunte Gram Panchayat, where he played a key role in implementing various public welfare and developmental projects. He initiated waste collection programmes for every household. His efforts were instrumental in Rajanukunte Gram Panchayat receiving national awards, including the National Award, Mahatma Gandhi Award, and the Swachh Bharat Award.

Political Influence and Leadership in BJP

Manjunath has held several important positions in BJP, including the President of the Yelahanka Rural BJP Youth Wing and Vice President of the Yelahanka Rural BJP Mandal. Currently, he serves as the General Secretary of the Yelahanka Rural BJP Mandal, a responsibility he carries with dedication. He has been a strong pillar of the party organization in the region. Beyond agriculture and politics, Manjunath is involved in various organizations. He serves as a Director of the Karnataka State Reddy Jana Sangh, Director of the Singanayakanahalli Farmers Service Cooperative Society, Advisory Board Member for the Yelahanka Government PU College, and Trustee of the Addiganahalli Patalamma Devi Temple Development Committee.

Active in Theatre

Manjunath is also an avid theatre enthusiast. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he provided assistance to several families under the guidance of MLA S.R. Vishwanath. As a hobbyist stage artist, he has gained appreciation for his role as Duryodhana in the play Kurukshetra, a part he has performed over 50 times, earning widespread admiration. Manjunath's diverse activities highlight his commitment to community service, education, agriculture, and leadership in real estate, politics, and culture.

Eco Planet Challenges Global Lift Giants with Innovation and Affordability

In a time when foreign companies dominate the market, a farmer's son from a rural village has taken the lift industry by storm, inventing new lifts and competing head-to-head with international giants. Meet H. Rajugowda, the son of Hanumantaiah and Jayalakshmamma from Amruthuru Hobli, Tubinakere, Kunigal. Through his company, Eco Planet Elevators & Escalators Pvt. Ltd., Raju Gowda has developed cutting-edge lifts that challenge the status quo and cater to all types of homes, big or small, with a focus on affordability and efficiency.

A Proudly Indian Company with Global Standards

Eco Planet is a proudly Indian company that offers world-class lift and escalator solutions. Rajugowda collaborated with a German company to bring state-of-the-art technology into the Indian market, ensuring that customers receive the best products backed by the latest innovations in vertical mobility.

Safety, Security, and Eco-Friendly Technology

Eco Planet is not just about quality; it's about trust. The company operates out of its own manufacturing unit in Peenya, Bengaluru, and is officially recognised and licensed by the government. Eco Planet's lifts come equipped with eco-friendly technology that saves up to 80% in energy consumption. These lifts can even operate on solar power, providing customers with sustainable options. The company also offers a ten-year warranty, ensuring that their products stand the test of time. With a reputation for reliability and safety, Eco Planet is making vertical mobility accessible and secure for all.

H. Raju Gowda, Founder & MD, Ecoplanet Elevators & Escalators Pvt. Ltd.

Customer Education and Awareness

Eco Planet is committed to educating the public about the need for lifts in homes, especially for elderly family members who may struggle with stairs. The company is implementing a comprehensive plan to raise awareness and introduce different lift models to customers, ensuring that vertical mobility becomes a necessity, not a luxury. Eco Planet is not just building lifts; it's building a future where everyone can move upwards with ease and safety.

Affordable and Customized Solutions for Every Home

What sets Eco Planet apart is its ability to offer customised lifts at affordable prices. While international companies charge premium prices, Eco Planet delivers top-notch products at a fraction of the cost without compromising on safety and security.

From a Farmer's Son to a Successful Entrepreneur

Hailing from a farmer's family, Raju Gowda completed his graduation before moving to Bengaluru for further studies. After finishing his education, he initially worked for a lift installation company before gaining experience with a German firm. In 2007, he took the bold step of founding his own lift company, Eco Planet. By 2010, he expanded his operations by setting up a factory in Peenya. To date, Eco Planet has installed over 3,000 lifts, and not a single one has failed. The company has also provided employment to more than 300 individuals.

Expanding Nationwide and Internationally

With service centers in Bengaluru, Hassan, Mysuru, Tumakuru, Davangere, and Ballari, Eco Planet Elevators has earned a reputation for installing lifts in villas, apartments, and commercial spaces across India. The company is also expanding its reach to neighboring states such as Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Kerala, and Maharashtra. Not stopping there, Eco Planet has partnered with international markets like Dubai and Sri Lanka, making its mark as an emerging global lift solution provider.

Introducing the Future of Lifts

Eco Planet is working on a project to introduce home elevators under its new Vertical Mobility Solutions division. The company aims to establish a Home Elevator Band by 2025, making it the go-to brand for affordable, high-quality residential lifts. Moreover, a Mobile Experience Center will be launched later this year to help customers better understand the different lift designs and their benefits.

Recognized and Awarded for Excellence

Raju Gowda's vision and dedication have earned him numerous accolades, including:

- Top Business Leader Award from MSME
- Achievers of Bengaluru Award from Vijay Karnataka
- Bengaluru Ratna Award
- Dubai India International Award
- Veera Kannada Award
- Times Business Award

and many more national and international honors.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Eco Planet Elevators & Escalators Pvt. Ltd.
For more information, visit the official website or get in touch with their team:
Website: www.ecoplanetelevators.in
Mobile: 97413 59096
Address: Vidhana Soudha Layout, Peenya 3rd Phase, Bengaluru

107 Years of Excellence in Traditional and Modern Education

For over 107 years, the National Education Society (NES) has been dedicated to providing both traditional and skill-oriented modern education, guided by a motto that emphasizes excellence through hard work and dedication. Established in 1917, NES began its journey with the National High School and now manages 21 educational institutions, ranging from primary schools to an engineering college.

NES has expanded its presence across Bengaluru in areas such as Basavanagudi, Jayanagar, and Subrahmanyapura, as well as rural regions like Gauribidanur, Hosur, Bagepalli, Mudiyanur (Mulbagal taluk), and Yaldur (Srinivaspur taluk). Currently, over 14,000 students are enrolled across its institutions, supported by 670 teachers and non-teaching staff. NES is a non-donation-based institution that provides affordable education, including free education and scholarships for underprivileged children.

Donation-Free Education

The society operates schools in both Kannada and English mediums and offers courses in Arts, Commerce, and Science at the Pre-University level. Undergraduate courses are available across various fields without any donation. The college also offers an exclusive B.Sc. Animation course, along with postgraduate programs in Economics, M.Com, M.Sc. Computer Science, and MCA.

> **"With quality education, may we instill moral awareness in students, cultivate human values, and achieve success at the state, national, and international levels, proudly raising the national tricolor flag."**
> **V. Venkatasiva Reddy**
> **Honorary Secretary, NES**

> **"The National Education Society prioritises not only traditional education but also modern and skill-based education. The growth of the institution has been significantly shaped by the guidance of senior members and the contributions of alumni."**
> **Dr. H.N. Subrahmanya,**
> **President, NES**

Emphasizing scientific and technical education, NES has established a state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence lab, where students have developed robots and drones. The Atal Tinkering Lab and Science Forum organize numerous scientific experiments and have been recognized by the state government, earning the prestigious "Kempegowda Award" for conducting over 2,149 lectures.

Encouraging Sports and Extracurricular Activities

Beyond academics, NES actively promotes extracurricular activities, particularly in sports and the arts. Known for its legacy in drama, NES has produced prominent theatre artists such as Dr. Vishnuvardhan and Ramesh Aravind. National College, under the NES umbrella, is renowned as the "Theatre College" for its consistent focus on theatre training. NES also provides facilities for boys' hostels and other essential student services.

Rich History

In 1917, Annie Besant laid the foundation for the National Education Society (NES) by establishing S.L.N. National High School. The society grew steadily under the leadership of its first president, Krishna Iyengar, along with B.K. Garudachar and other influential figures. Dr. H. Narasimhaiah, a student of this institution who later became NES president in 1975, played a pivotal role in its development. His tireless efforts significantly contributed to the institution's growth, incorporating senior students as partners in the society's progress.

Engineering College Launch

In the current academic year (2024-25), NES has launched the 'Dr. H.N. National College of Engineering' in Jayanagar. The college offers courses in Computer Science, Information Science, Artificial Intelligence, Electronics Engineering, and M.Sc. (Physics, Mathematics). A total of 280 students have been admitted, with all admissions processed through the CET selection procedure. 22 faculty members have been appointed, and the same campus also offers MBA and MCA courses. The institution provides well-equipped buildings and state-of-the-art lab facilities.

Currently, under the leadership of President Dr. H.N. Subrahmanya and Secretary V. Venkateshwarareddy, NES continues to thrive and pursue further development.

Aiming for Excellence

The goal of NES is to provide high-quality education while fostering moral awareness among students, nurturing human values, and achieving excellence at the state, national, and international levels—proudly raising the national tricolor flag.

The Rising Star of Social Service and Politics

B.Y. Ramesh, a man driven by a passion for social service, has quickly made a name for himself in the political arena as a leader of the masses. Born in 1979 in Bilekahalli, Ramesh completed his education at Modern English High School in J.P. Nagar.

A Legacy of Hard Work and Resilience

Ramesh's father, Yellappa, served as a conductor for BTS buses before taking voluntary retirement to start a brick manufacturing business. However, due to health issues, the responsibility of managing the business fell on young Ramesh. He not only learned the basics of business management at an early age but also carried forward the family's legacy of hard work. After recovering, Yellappa went on to serve as a Panchayat member in Bilekahalli and later became a Bommanahalli City Municipal Council member. A tragic attack fueled by political rivalry on Yellappa inspired Ramesh to take up the mantle of leadership, stepping into politics with determination and vigour.

Winning Hearts with Service

Ramesh established Shri Lakshmi Venkateshwara Cable Network, connecting over a thousand homes in Bilekahalli. By addressing everyday issues like road repairs, water drainage problems, and more, he earned the trust and friendship of the community. His commitment to helping people saw him assisting nearly a thousand families in obtaining ration cards and voter IDs. Alongside his political endeavours, Ramesh runs Archan Enterprises, a real estate business, and serves as the honorary president of the Dr. Vishnuvardhan Punyabhumi Trust, actively advocating for the preservation of cultural heritage.

Today, B.Y. Ramesh exemplifies a leader who puts people first, blending social service with strategic vision. His unwavering dedication to addressing community challenges and promoting development makes him an inspiring figure in Bilekahalli. Ramesh continues to shine as a symbol of hope and progress, laying the foundation for a brighter future for the region.

B.Y. Ramesh, Entrepreneur and Social Worker

A Pillar of the Community

The residents of Bilekahalli frequently approach Ramesh with their grievances, knowing he will address them sincerely. Recognizing his dedication, local leaders urged him to contest elections. However, prioritising service over personal ambition, Ramesh first ensured his wife, Roopa, was elected as a Corporator, leaving a lasting legacy. Earlier, his mother also served as a Municipal Council member, reflecting the family's longstanding commitment to public service.

Noteworthy Achievements

B.Y. Ramesh has facilitated widow pensions, old-age pensions, and disability pensions for over 2,000 individuals, secured land for the construction of the Ambedkar Community Hall and Anganwadi centers, and allocated 4,000 sq. ft. of land for a sewing machine training center, empowering over 500 women with sewing machines and skills for financial independence. He has also facilitated the distribution of Ayushman Bharat health cards and BPL cards to numerous families in need.

Empowering Education with Visionary Leadership

Dr. B.R. Supreeth, an author and education expert, has been dedicated to providing modern education to rural children through his leadership at Oxford Institutions (Nagarabhavi & Ullal). With inspiring leadership, he has established an educational organisation committed to fostering literacy and holistic development in students.

Dr. Supreeth currently serves as the Principal of Oxford Pre-University and Degree Colleges located in Ullal, Bengaluru. He is also the Secretary of Oxford Educational Institutions. A former Syndicate member of Bengaluru North University, Dr. Supreeth is now serving as a Syndicate member at Bengaluru City University.

Oxford Educational Institutions, which provide high quality education from nursery to postgraduate levels, include primary and high schools in Nagarabhavi and Ullal, as well as Oxford Degree and PU Colleges in M. Visvesvaraya Layout, Ullal Main Road, and surrounding areas like Kengeri and Nagarabhavi. These institutions have earned widespread recognition for their quality education and holistic development programs under the leadership of Dr. B.R. Supreeth.

OXFORD SM
INSTITUTIONS
NAGARABHAVI & Ullal
BENGALURU-560072

Expertise in Curriculum Design and Awards:

With over 20 years of experience in science, management, and research, Dr. Supreeth has significantly contributed to curriculum development and design across various educational levels, from schools to universities. He has introduced innovative teaching methodologies and has trained students for competitive exams like JEE and NEET. Additionally, he is a columnist and a panelist on various news channels. Dr. Supreeth is also a founding member and Vice-President of the Zero Waste Society of India. He has been honoured with several state and national awards for his contributions to the educational sector.

Books by Dr. B.R. Supreet

Dr. Supreeth is the author of several books, including Raviteja: Glow of the Sun, Cracking IIT is Not Rocket Science, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, Human Resource Management, and Blockchain Technology. Some of these books have received prestigious awards.

Focus on Rural Education Development:

Oxford Educational Institutions offer free education to 50 to 100 children from economically disadvantaged families every year. Additionally, the institution provides fee concessions to underprivileged students. The organization also adopts rural schools and colleges, providing them with modern technology, laboratory equipment, and basic infrastructure to improve educational facilities. Dr. B.R. Supreeth, Secretary of Oxford Institutions and Syndicate member at Bengaluru City University, continues to lead the way in enhancing education and making a positive impact on the community.

Dr. B.R. Supreeth, Secretary, Oxford Institutions (Nagarabhavi & Ullal), and Syndicate Member, Bengaluru City University

Visionary Leadership Transforming Education

With a deep commitment to bringing transformative changes in education, Yogesh Krishnappa, President of Sharada Group of Institutions, Attibele, stands as a shining example of what visionary leadership can achieve. Known for his forward-thinking approach, Yogesh Krishnappa has been instrumental in elevating the institution to a hub of academic excellence and holistic development. Under his dynamic leadership, the Sharada Group has achieved remarkable milestones, earning accolades in various domains.

Pioneering Skills and Innovative Teaching Methods

Yogesh Krishnappa's vision extends beyond academic excellence. His institution fosters an environment where students not only excel in studies but also imbibe essential life skills, moral values, and a global perspective. With the introduction of cutting-edge teaching methodologies, state-of-the-art infrastructure, and a student-centric approach, he has ensured that every student realizes their full potential. Through relentless efforts, Sharada Group has gained recognition for its excellence in academics, extracurricular activities, and community service. These initiatives have created a nurturing environment that shapes well-rounded individuals ready to take on global challenges.

International Curriculum and Experiential Learning

At Sharada International School, Attibele, the ICSE curriculum is integrated with an activity-based learning approach. Students actively engage in group discussions, experiments, and critical analysis, helping them develop skills in critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration. This practical learning methodology prepares students for real-world challenges, equipping them to excel in any field.

Nature and Cultural Heritage

Sharada Group takes pride in fostering awareness about folk art, traditions, and cultural heritage among students. Workshops on environmental conservation encourage students to adopt sustainable practices, including waste reduction, water conservation, and wildlife protection. These efforts instill a sense of responsibility and environmental consciousness among young learners. The institution regularly organises captivating exhibitions and presentations in collaboration with repurted organisations like the Central Fisheries Department, Silk Board, and Atomic Energy Department. These initiatives expose students to the realms of science and technology, laying a solid foundation for their academic and professional aspirations.

Focus on Extracurricular Activities

To promote awareness among students, various activities and sessions instill money management skills in children, while special celebrations like Father's Day and Grandparents' Day foster community awareness and create cherished memories.

Sports: Building Minds and Bodies

Recognising the importance of a healthy mind and body, the institution emphasises sports activities. With expert guidance, students receive physical education training and excel in various sports, bringing laurels to the institution. Through Yogesh Krishnappa's relentless dedication and visionary outlook, Sharada Group of Institutions continues to set benchmarks in education, ensuring students emerge as responsible, skilled, and enlightened individuals ready to contribute to society meaningfully.

S.K. Yogesh Krishnappa, President, Sharada International Group of Institutions

Pioneering Growth, Sustainability, and Innovation

A-One Group, a prominent name in the steel and allied industries, is setting the stage for a transformative journey with an ambitious growth strategy. The company's comprehensive roadmap is designed to strengthen its market presence and diversify its offerings while staying committed to sustainability and operational excellence.

Expanding Horizons: The Organic Growth Plan

At the core of A-One Group's growth agenda lies its focus on organic development. By enhancing production capacities at state-of-the-art facilities like the Koppal plant, the company is geared to meet the increasing demand for high-quality steel products. A-One Group is also diversifying its portfolio to include high-margin products such as galvanised pipes, stainless steel rods, and specialised alloy steel offerings. This strategic expansion not only bolsters the company's market share but also aligns with evolving industry demands.

Sustainability is Key

Sustainability is a driving force behind A-One Group's growth. Significant investments are being made in advanced green manufacturing technologies, including solar power, waste heat recovery systems, and continuous casting methods. These initiatives aim to reduce the environmental impact of steel production while catering to the rising demand for eco-friendly solutions. The company's commitment to producing "green steel" reflects its forward-thinking approach to balancing profitability with environmental responsibility. "Our growth strategy is firmly anchored in innovation, sustainability, and market responsiveness," said Mr. Sunil Jalan, Co-Founder of A-One Group. "Through technological advancements and targeted product diversification, we aim to redefine industry standards and create sustainable value for our stakeholders."

"Our vision for A-One Group is crystal clear: to emerge as a global leader in steel, recognized not only for exceptional quality but also for our ability to adapt to a changing world. In the coming years, we aim to expand further, champion environmental sustainability, and consistently deliver outstanding products to our customers."

-Sunil Jalan

Sunil Jalan and Sandeep Jalan with father Krishnan Kumar

Breathing New Life into Distressed Assets

While organic growth forms one pillar of the company's strategy, A-One Group is equally focused on inorganic growth through strategic acquisitions. The company is identifying underperforming businesses with high revival potential, aiming to transform these assets into profitable ventures. This involves infrastructure modernization, financial restructuring, and the implementation of operational synergies. By reviving distressed assets, A-One Group is not only enhancing its production capabilities but also penetrating new markets and expanding its product spectrum. This approach enables the company to leverage existing resources and expertise to drive growth while contributing to the overall revitalization of the steel industry. "We're looking for opportunities to acquire companies that we can help turn around," said Mr. Jalan. "This two-part strategy of organic and inorganic growth allows us to stay ahead of the competition and deliver greater value to our customers."

Global Alliances

A-One Group's growth strategy also emphasises forging strategic alliances with global partners. By collaborating with industry leaders across Asia, Africa, and Europe, the company aims to tap into advanced technologies and gain access to high-growth markets. With a relentless drive for excellence, A-One Group is well-positioned to shape the future of the steel and allied industries. Through its organic growth initiatives, strategic acquisitions, global collaborations, and unwavering commitment to sustainability, the company is charting a course for long-term success.

The Inspiring Story of Dr. M. Thimmegowda

A Journey of Perseverance and Transformation

From humble beginnings as a daily wage laborer to becoming a respected leader uplifting an entire community, Dr. M. Thimmegowda's life is a testament to the power of determination and hard work. Recognised for his significant contributions to the cooperative sector, he currently serves as the President of the Karnataka Pradesh Arya Idigara Sangha.

A Remarkable Path to Leadership

Born in 1946 in Herahalli, Harohalli Hobli of Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara district, Dr. Thimmegowda is the eldest son of Mudde Gowda and Singamma. His early life was marked by hardship, losing both parents at the tender age of eight. Forced to leave school after middle school, he began working as a labourer, earning just 25 per month, and took up odd jobs such as cleaning utensils, lorry cleaner and carrying loads etc. Eventually, he found employment as a sepoy in the Mysore Palace, where he learned horse riding. He married K Savitramma. Later, he worked as a bar supplier in Kollegal and then due to his hard work was promoted as a manager. Later, his career took a turn when he moved to Bangalore in 1968 and ventured into his community's traditional toddy and liquor business, steadily rising to become an excise contractor. He had good equations with the former PM PV Narasimha Rao, HD Deve Gowda and former CM M Veerappa Moily.

Dr. M. Thimmegowda, President, Sri Sudha Cooperative Bank and Karnataka Pradesh Arya Idigara Sangha

Achievements in the Cooperative Sector

With over 30 years of service as Vice-President of the Karnataka Arya Idigara Sangha, Dr. Thimmegowda now leads the organisation as its President, striving for the economic, social, and educational upliftment of the community. Additionally, he has served as the President of Sudha Cooperative Bank, a prestigious institution recognised as a "Strong Bank" by the Reserve Bank of India. His exemplary contributions to the cooperative sector earned him the Sahakara Ratna Award 2024 from the Karnataka State Cooperative Federation. He has also been honoured with an honorary doctorate by the University of Mysore.

Uplifting Through Education and Infrastructure

Guided by the support and cooperation of community leaders, Dr. Thimmegowda has been instrumental in the establishment and growth of educational institutions under the Arya Idiga Mahasamsthana in Solur near Nelamangala. He has also contributed to building hostels for students in Mysuru and Tumakuru, ensuring access to quality education and better living facilities. Recognizing the importance of expanding educational reach, he spearheaded the founding of schools in Hubballi and Dharwad, actively working to enhance their infrastructure. Furthermore, he is spearheading plans to construct a community hall in Visvesvaraya Layout, Bengaluru, and is committed to completing the Sangha's headquarters building, reflecting his dedication to community welfare.

Religious and Social Endeavours

Dr. Thimmegowda's contributions extend beyond education and community development to religious and social service. As a trustee of the Dharmasthala Ujire Sri Ramakshetra, he has significantly contributed to the development of this revered site. His role as the President of the Sri Veeranjaneya Swamy Temple Trust on Mysore Road further underscores his dedication to preserving and enhancing spiritual spaces. Through the R.L. Jalappa Academy Trust, Dr. Thimmegowda actively supports competitive exam coaching for IAS, IPS, and other prestigious civil services, enabling aspiring students to realize their dreams. His efforts reflect a commitment to nurturing the leaders of tomorrow by providing them with the resources and guidance necessary for success.

A Legacy of Service: Dr. M. Timmegowda's Commitment to Community and Society

After stepping away from the liquor business following prohibition, Dr. M. Thimmegowda redirected his focus toward community and social service, dedicating himself to the holistic development of the Idiga community. Collaborating with esteemed leaders like J.P. Narayanaswamy, H.R. Basavaraju, and D. Dasappa has played a pivotal role in advancing the community's educational, economic, social, and political standing.

A Visionary Entrepreneur and Dedicated Philanthropist

Dr. B.M. Umar Haji, the esteemed Chairman of Abhiman Group of Companies, is not only a successful entrepreneur but also a renowned social worker committed to uplifting the underprivileged. Born in 1969 in Basavane, a village in Tirthahalli taluk of Shivamogga district, Haji completed his primary education in his hometown and pursued secondary schooling in Shuntikatte. He graduated in Shivamogga and gained early professional experience working with granite exporters in Mangaluru. After a few years of employment in Saudi Arabia, he returned to India and took up a job in a granite company. Encouraged by his experience in the granite industry and inspired by his brother BM Abdul Rahman, he ventured into entrepreneurship. In 2000, he founded Abhiman Constructions, a construction company that has since provided employment to over 200 individuals.

A Legacy of Giving Back

Dr. Umar Haji has dedicated a significant portion of his earnings to social service every year. He has supported numerous underprivileged individuals from the Muslim community by sponsoring their pilgrimage to Hajj and Umrah. For the past 16 years, he has personally borne the expenses of at least one impoverished individual annually for the holy journey to Mecca and Medina. His contributions extend to various religious institutions, including the construction of madrassas, mosques, temples, and churches in the Malnad and coastal regions. In memory of his parents, he established an orphanage at a cost of 1 crore. He also funded a clean drinking water plant in Kalena Agrahara village, Bengaluru.

At his son's wedding held at Bengaluru's Palace Grounds, Dr. Umar Haji organised a mass marriage for 21 underprivileged girls from different religions. Additionally, he funds the education of 25-30 children every year and, along with friends, has built 68 homes for the needy in Mangaluru. Over 50 families have received financial assistance from him. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he provided daily meals for 3,000 individuals and distributed over 5,000 essential kits to those in need. Dr. B.M. Umar Haji's life is an inspiring testament to the power of perseverance, hard work, and compassion. Through his entrepreneurial ventures and unwavering commitment to social service, he continues to be a beacon of hope and a driving force for change in society.

Leadership Roles and Inclusivity

Dr. Umar Haji firmly believes in the principles of equality and unity, often emphasizing, "There is only one God, and every individual deserves respect regardless of caste or creed." This inclusive philosophy underpins his active participation and leadership in numerous organizations that strive for social betterment. He serves as the State Vice President of the Karnataka Muslim Jamaath and as Vice President of the All India Human Rights Committee, playing pivotal roles in championing human rights and community welfare. His dedication to societal causes extends to his role as the Honorary President of Karnataka Rakshana Vedike Swabhimani Bana and the Bengaluru Muslim Youth Committee, State Honorary Secretary of Muslim Youths Council (Mangaluru) and member of Nobo Nagar Welfare Association.

Acknowledgements and Awards

Dr. Umar Haji's relentless dedication to social service and his transformative impact on the community have earned him over 50 prestigious awards. Notable among them are the Karunadu Siri Award, Samajaseva Ratna Award, Sadhaka Siri State Award, Seva Ratna Award, and Gadinada Dhwani Award.In 2024, he was honoured with the Asian Icon Award in Sri Lanka for his exemplary contributions to society. His efforts were also recognized at the World Kannada Cultural Summit held in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. Other accolades include the Kannada and Culture Department Award and the Saal Row Honorary Award in 2018. He is also conferred with an honorary doctorate. In a remarkable acknowledgment of his impact, the Bengaluru City Commissioner awarded him the title "Eye of the Society".

Dr. Umar Haji, Chairman and Entrepreneur, Abhiman Group of Companies

Building Concrete Dreams with Trust and Quality

Vivechana Constructions has emerged as the go-to company for construction needs, offering everything under one roof for building projects. Established in 2018, this company has quickly gained popularity among the residents of the city, building a strong reputation for quality, affordability, reliability, and timely project completion.

Vivechana
Building Concrete Dreams

Building the Future with Expertise

Vivechana Constructions is committed to offering a range of services in the building and construction sector. From constructing homes and buildings to site verification and land record checks, the company ensures that each project is handled with the utmost care and professionalism. In a city like Bengaluru, land disputes are a common occurrence, making it essential to verify land records carefully before taking possession. Any oversight could lead to costly consequences. Vivechana Constructions takes pride in its transparent approach, thoroughly checking all legal documents to ensure no issues arise down the road.

Cost-effective Construction with Quality Assurance

Vivechana Constructions uses modern technologies to minimiSe construction costs without compromising on quality. Every material used in construction undergoes a strict quality check to ensure it meets the highest standards. The company is committed to adhering to all building regulations and codes, which forms the foundation of its reputation.

The company utiliSes durable cement blocks, lightweight Autoclaved Aerated Concrete blocks, wire-cut red bricks, and non-plastered open bricks (without plastering), among others. These high-quality materials are used for building homes, farmhouses, government buildings, hotels, ashrams, military buildings, and more. Additionally, Vivechana Constructions has worked as a consultant for several government projects.

Vaastu Compliance for Harmonious Living

Vivechana Constructions places significant emphasis on Vaastu Shastra in building construction. Even if it involves a slightly higher investment, the company ensures that all structures are built according to Vastu principles. They believe that a well-designed building, both externally and internally, enhances the quality of life. Moreover, interior design plays a crucial role, and Vivechana Constructions brings innovative solutions to ensure that interior spaces are as welcoming as the outer design. Key elements such as proper ventilation and natural light are prioritised to ensure the health and well-being of the occupants.

Eco-friendly Building Practices

Vivechana Constructions is committed to constructing eco-friendly buildings that integrate sustainable practices. The company encourages the use of solar energy, rainwater harvesting, and indoor plants to enhance the livability and environmental impact of their buildings. These technologies are incorporated into the construction process to ensure that every building is not only comfortable but also environmentally responsible.

Vivechana Constructions is committed to building dreams—one brick at a time. Through its dedication to quality, sustainability, and customer satisfaction, the company continues to set the standard for the construction industry in Bengaluru. Whether it's building a home or creating a new space for business, Vivechana Constructions ensures every project is a solid investment for the future.

A Company Built on Trust and Quality

With a focus on maintaining the highest standards of quality in both construction and service, Vivechana Constructions has earned the trust of the people in Bengaluru. The pillars of the company—K. Vijaykumar, Nirmala Vijaykumar, and Venkatesh B.—are the driving forces behind its success.

K. Vijaykumar (Director)

A mechanical engineer, K. Vijaykumar holds a law degree from Bangalore University and a diploma in business administration. With years of experience at Sobha Limited and Kotak Mahindra Finance Limited, he brings valuable expertise to the company's leadership.

Prashanth M.D. (General Manager)

A Civil Engineer with over 10 years of experience, Prashanth M.D. has been a member of the NCBBC Mysuru-Bengaluru National Highway Advisory Committee and currently heads the sales and marketing department at Vivechana Constructions.

Venkatesh B (Director)

Venkatesh B (Director) He has an M.Sc. degree along with a diploma in Computer Science. After completing his education, he served as an assistant professor at Gulbarga University and worked for 16 years in the state government's Urban Development Department. He now leads the government contracting and project execution divisions at Vivechana Constructions.

From Debts to Triumph: The Inspirational Journey of Venkatachalapathi

"Even a straw is a lifeline for the drowning"—this saying resonates deeply in the life of Bengaluru Achievers Award recipient-Venkatachalapathi K.P. His story is one of survival against hunger, despair, humiliation, and homelessness. In his darkest moments, he found hope and support in his sister Vanaja and his close friend, TSR Bricks owner, Ravinandan Babu. "Without them, I wouldn't be alive today," he often says with gratitude.

Born in Kooranahosahalli, Malur (Kolar district), Venkatachalapathi KP's life has been a series of challenges since childhood. The third of five children in a middle-class family, he stood out as a bright student. Determined not to burden his family, he financed his own education through part-time jobs, showing resilience from an early age.

Venkatachalapathi K.P., Managing Director, Finex Holdings India Pvt. Ltd.

Trials in Bengaluru

His journey took a turn for the worse during college when he fell into bad company, leading him to drop out. Returning to Kolar, he worked at a lottery shop but eventually opened his own—only to fall into a debt trap. With creditors pursuing him, Venkatachalapathi lived on the streets, often without food, and contemplated ending his life. A chance intervention by his sister Vanaja brought him to Bengaluru in 2004, where he started afresh, working as a paperboy for Vijay Times. Gradually, he moved to jobs at a bank and MetLife, roaming the streets of Bengaluru as a salesman.

Building a Future

In 2006, guided by the mentorship of PK Pandey and Vanitha PK Pandey, he collaborated with senior colleague Raghavendra Hegde to cofound Finex Holdings, a digital solutions company.This marked the beginning of his entrepreneurial journey. He later launched Dhruva Homestay and made a name for himself in real estate as a reputed builder. Along with friends, he established Pragathi Ready Mix Concrete Company, diversifying his ventures and achieving financial stability. Venkatachalapathi's journey from a debt-ridden youth to a successful entrepreneur and philanthropist is an extraordinary tale of grit and gratitude. Today, he not only stands as a beacon of hope for thousands but also proves that resilience, coupled with a helping hand, can transform lives.

A Passion for Social Service

Venkatachalapathi dedicates a significant portion of his earnings to social causes. He sponsors coaching for underprivileged IAS and KAS aspirants, providing them opportunities to train in prestigious Delhi institutes. Locally, he supports education for children from low-income families and has pursued a law degree to offer free legal advice.

As a volunteer with the District Legal Services Authority, he has provided legal assistance to countless individuals. For over a decade, he has been a fierce advocate against government land encroachments, earning a reputation as a fearless social activist. Notably, he led a large-scale movement against the Central Government's decision to shut down the Digital Signature system, further cementing his legacy as a people's champion.

Revolutionising Industrial Fan Manufacturing with Aadhya Airtek

D.R. Sree Latha Vasisht, the Founder and Managing Director of Aadhya Airtek, has made her presence felt in the industrial fan manufacturing sector. As the only company in Karnataka engaged in the production of industrial fans, Aadhya Airtek's fans are creating a buzz across the country. The company, through its 'Make in India' initiative, specialises in manufacturing HVLS (High Volume Low Speed) fans. These fans are not only essential for industrial spaces but are also widely used in marriage halls, places of worship, shopping centers, airports, bus and railway stations, and theaters.

D.R. Sree Latha Vasisht, Founder & CEO, Aadhya Airtek

Aadhya Airtek: The Customers' Company

Founded in 2020, Aadhya Airtek has emerged as a highly sought-after manufacturer of HVLS fans. These fans are known for their unique features, including lightweight design, enhanced safety, energy efficiency, low capital investment, and reduced operational costs. The inception of Aadhya Airtek is an inspiring story. Back in 2017, an acquaintance introduced Sree Latha to expensive HVLS fans (priced between 5-6 lakhs). Finding them costly, she initially dismissed the idea. However, during her travels to Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore as part of her doctoral research, she once again noticed these fans and began to rethink the concept.

In 2018, with an acquaintance requiring these fans, Latha & Mahesh saw the need for these fans in India and entered the Market. Sree Latha entered the market by collaborating with an Indian manufacturer. She soon realized that many MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) faced challenges due to the heavy weight of these fans, which their ceilings couldn't support. Determined to address this issue, Sree Latha founded Aadhya Airtek along with her husband Mahesh with a vision to manufacture lightweight, cost-effective fans tailored to the needs of MSMEs. Today, the company produces fans weighing around 110 kg at a cost of less than 2 lakhs.

Innovation and Evolution

Initially, Aadhya Airtek focused on induction motor-based fans. Induction motor based fans with little noise (35-40db) and eventually transitioned to producing noiseless PMS and BLDC motor fans.

Future Plans:

Sree Latha shared that the company is preparing to launch innovative industrial exhaust fans and BLDC motors under its proprietary brand, Aadhya. Aadhya Airtek is dedicated to providing tailored solutions to its customers. Before manufacturing, the team visits the installation site to determine factors such as the fan size, motor type, and optimal installation height to ensure effective air circulation. The company manufactures fans suitable for installation heights ranging from 13 feet to 35 feet.

Recognition and Awards

- Aadhya Airtek has received several accolades, including:
- Recognized among the Top 10 Industrial Fan Manufacturers in India by Industry Outlook in 2023.
- Best Emerging Company Award at the Nationwide Awards 2023 by Business Mint.
- Economic Times Achievers Award in 2024 by the Times Group.
- Customized Solutions for Customers

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Phone: 080-22450306, 8867085732
Website: www.aadhyaairtek.com

A Strong Example of Woman Power and Social Impact

Kavitha Puttraj is a shining example of strength, resilience, and empowerment, embodying the spirit of woman power. Known for her unwavering determination, she has built a reputation not just for supporting her husband's business, but for creating her own legacy with social contributions that continue to inspire many.

Born in Kariyappanahalli, Bannerghatta, Kavitha married the entrepreneur Puttraj in 1989. While supporting her husband's business, she also became deeply involved in various social initiatives such as temple development and providing financial assistance for the education of underprivileged children. Her passion for social welfare even led her to venture into the film industry, producing socially conscious films.

Kavitha Puttaraj, Chairman, Saviraj Groups

Empowering Education and Helping the Needy

A firm believer in the power of education to change lives, Kavitha has been instrumental in supporting the education of underprivileged children. Through her efforts, she provides books, notebooks, and uniforms, as well as financial aid to ensure these children have access to education. Kavitha, who grew up in an undivided family, continues to carry forward the tradition of unity and values. As a mother of four, she has raised her children, including three daughters, with equal care and attention, ensuring they received quality education and were nurtured without bias.

Devotion to the Divine

Kavitha's deep devotion to Lord Annapurneshwari is reflected in her construction of the Annapurneshwari Temple in K.R. Puram. Here, every evening, she organizes 'Annadan' (food distribution) for the underprivileged, ensuring they never go to bed hungry.

Support During the COVID-19 Pandemic

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Kavitha Puttraj extended a helping hand to the underprivileged and middle-class families. She distributed food kits worth ₹9,000 to each family, ensuring they had the essentials to survive during difficult times.

Producing Films with Social Messages

Kavitha's passion for social change extended to the film industry, where she produced the impactful film 'Hebbet Ramakka'. The movie tells the story of an illiterate woman who rises in politics, highlighting the power of determination and vision. The film won both state and national awards, and Kavitha was deeply inspired by the success, receiving a congratulatory call from Puneeth Rajkumar, which brought her even more joy than the awards themselves. Her connection with the family of the legendary actor Dr. Rajkumar further strengthened her resolve to produce films with meaningful messages. With 'Hebbet Ramakka', she hopes to inspire further social change, particularly in addressing the issues of drug addiction among the youth and challenges in the education system.

Vision for Sustainable Development

Kavitha is determined to make a difference by promoting sustainable living. In today's fast-paced world, where young people often overlook the importance of sustainable practices, Kavitha is working towards building a sustainable community. She envisions creating spaces where people can live without electricity, practice organic farming, and reside in mud houses. She is awaiting approval and funding from the government to bring this vision to life.

> "I firmly believe that success is not defined by how many times you fall but by how many times you rise again. Don't let setbacks stop you from moving forward."
> Kavitha Puttraj, Chairman, Saviraj Groups

Empowering the Youth and Overcoming Adversity

Kavitha strongly believes that today's youth is falling prey to destructive habits, wasting their precious lives. She urges them to never give up, even if their plans fail midway. The key is to keep moving forward with courage and self-confidence, as only then can success be achieved. Through her work, leadership, and unwavering commitment to social causes, Kavitha Puttraj continues to inspire and empower others, proving that a woman's strength is the driving force behind progress.

Savi Raj Convention Hall: A Hub for Celebrations

In addition to her philanthropic endeavours, Kavitha has also excelled in business. She built the Savi Raj Convention Hall at Budigere Cross, a venue suited for luxurious weddings and parties. Through her company, Saviraj Group, she rents out warehouses, generating revenue that supports her continued work in social service.

Death sentence for murder of 3 kids, attempt to kill wife

A court in Mangaluru has convicted and sentenced a man to death for allegedly murdering his three children and attempting to kill his wife by pushing them into a well. Third Additional District and Sessions Court judge Sandhya handed the death sentence to Hitesh Shettigar on December 31 for his heinous acts.

According to police, on June 23, 2022, in Padmanoor village, the accused allegedly pushed his three children into a well, leading to their deaths. He also attempted to murder his wife, Lakshmi, by pushing her into the same well.

Investigation revealed that the accused was unemployed and frequently quarrelled with his wife. On the day of the incident, driven by resentment, he waited until his children returned from school before committing the crime. When the woman screamed for help, a flower vendor nearby heard her cries and rescued her. — PTI

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Thasmeeya Banu, R/a No.11, 1st Main, B.G Road, Bismilla Nagar, Bangalore-560029 have changed my name to Tasmeeya Banu, For All Purposes.

I, Padma Thyagaraj R/o No.287, 1st main, Jagadishnagar, New Thippasandra post, Bengaluru 560075 have changed my name to Padma Ramaiah Affidavit Dt.01/01/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Ibrahim, son of Fazal Mehmood Hasan, residing at #64, 64/1, Spectra Classic, First Floor, F1, Benson Cross Road, Benson Town, Bangalore North, Karnataka 560046, hereby declare that I have changed my name to Ibrahim Fazal Dhinda. Henceforth, I shall be known as Ibrahim Fazal Dhinda for all purposes.

I, Vedamurthy B R/o No.635, 4th main, OMBR layout, Banaswadi, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my minor son name from Dishaank Vedamurthy to IIshaank Vedamurthy Affidavit Dt.01/01/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Shobha Mittal R/O Flat 1156, Prestige Lake Ridge, Uttarahalli, Subramanyapura, Blr-560061. I changed my name from Shobha Rani Mittal to Shobha MittaL for all future purposes.

I, Virupaksha Dambal R/o 49 Sneha Sadan 1st Main Balaji Layout Kogilu Yelahanka, Bengaluru have changed my minor daughter's name from Poorvi Virupaksha Dambal to Poorvi Dambal for all purposes.

I, Ahamadi Begum Muktar Pasha W/o Tanseer Ahmed R/o 40/16 2nd Cross KGN Layout Bannerughatta RD Cross B'lore-560041 have changed my name to Ahamadi Begum.

I, Tanseer Ahmed Peer S/o Mohammed Peer R/o 40/16 2nd Cross KGN Layout Bannerughatta Road Cross B'lore-560041 have changed my name to Tanseer Ahmed

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TENDER NOTIFICATION

OFFICE OF THE KARNATAKA STATE WAKF COUNCIL & KARNATAKA STATE WAKF FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN DEVELOPMENT HAJ BHAVAN, BENGALURU
#57/17, "HAJ BHAVAN", Thirumenahalli Village, Hegde Nagar Main Road, Bengaluru-560064 Phone No. 080-28567673, 9448937000 E-Mail :info@karhaj.in

MEMBER SECRETARY, Office of The Karnataka State Wakf Council & Karnataka State Wakf Foundation for women Development Haj Bhavan invites tenders as follows:

Sl No.	Short Term -Tender Notification
1	E - TENDER PROVIDING OUT SOURCE STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF KARNATAKA STATE WAKF COUNCIL & KARNATAKA STATE WAKF FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN DEVELOPMENT, BENGALURU.- Tender File No. KSHC/2024-25/SE0017/CALL-3
	Tender documents can be obtained from 30-12-2024 to 06-01-2025 up to 03.30PM https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Special Officer,
Karnataka State Haj Committee.

Students' group submits memo for right to protest

1,761+ signatures collected in memorandum submitted to education and home depts, asking restrictions on protests be revoked

Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The All India Students Association (AISA) has submitted a memorandum to the education and home departments, calling for the order restricting protests to Freedom Park to be revoked. The student group has collected 1,761+ signatures of students in support of the matter.

"AISA has been fighting against the unjust police order confining protests to Freedom park for a long time. In the process, many of our comrades have also been slapped with FIRs under both the BJP and Congress governments. As students, we feel that our right to protest outside our place of concern (school, college, education department, coaching centres, etc) is being curbed by this police order. As the government tries to make Bengaluru into a sanitised city calling in investments from MNCs, it is curtailing rights of workers, farmers, and students by imposing this protest restriction," said Aratrika, general secretary of AISA.

> **"The restriction to a single location in the city undermines these constitutional freedoms**
> – Aratrika, AISA

The memorandum notes that since January 2022, the police have imposed restrictions on protests and public gatherings, limiting them to Freedom Park. "These actions have caused substantial difficulties for minority groups seeking to protest their fundamental rights. The restriction to a single location in the city undermines these constitutional freedoms. Given this situation All India Students' Association, part of the Horatadaa Hakkigaagi Janandolana, conducted a signature campaign and collected signatures of students, youth, and activists, in an effort to reclaim our constitutional right to protest enshrined in Article 19 of the Indian constitution," the memorandum read. It said that rights of workers, farmers, and students, protests for Palestine, and other causes have continued often leading to police interference, detainment, intimidation, and event cancellations.

How police intervened

The memorandum also highlighted some key incidents of police intervention:

1. **15 August 2022**– More than 70 violently detained as they were organising a black flag protest, as part of their indefinite strike against the land acquisition in Devanahalli
2. **2 October 2023**– More than 100 detained as they gathered to demand the right to protest in Bangalore. Few months later more than 40 of them were booked with FIRs.
3. **16 October 2023**– 13 campaigners in MG Road detained for distributing pamphlets to raise awareness about Israel's actions in Palestine
4. **10 May 2024**– Over 50 detained for protesting against the unlawful and arbitrary termination of 56 staff from Victoria Hospital
5. **2 June 2024**– Peaceful campaigners raising awareness about Palestine were manhandled by Bengaluru Police in Frazer Town.
6. **23 July 2024**–Devanahalli farmers protesting against land acquisition by KIADB detained as they tried to march to the CM's residence

Peaceful campaigners spreading awareness on what is going on in Palestine have often been on the receiving end of police wrath in Bengaluru

HEALTH TIP: Adults aged 18-60 require at least 7 hours of sleep each night

Meditation can be practised by anyone, anywhere, and at any time, making it an excellent tool for reducing the stress and anxiety

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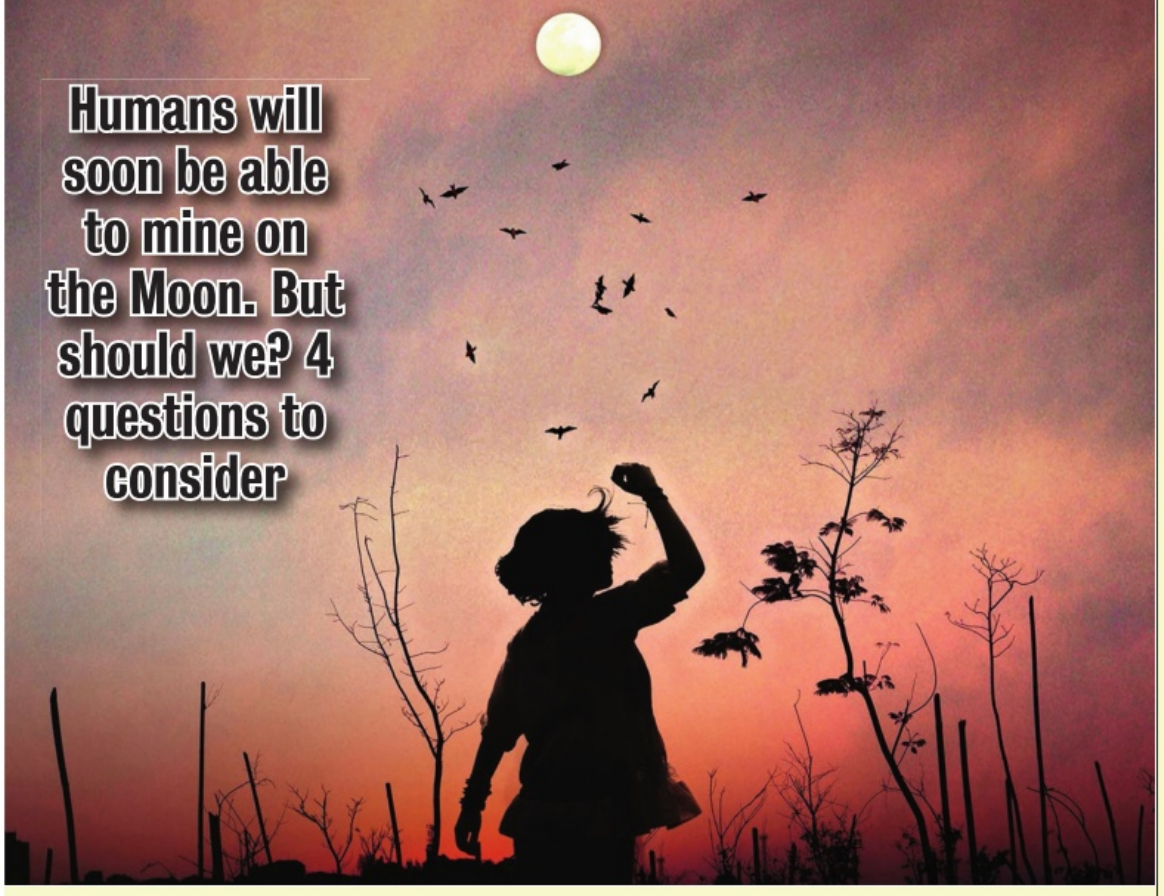
AIM FOR THE MOON...

Humans will soon be able to mine on the Moon. But should we? 4 questions to consider



By the end of this decade, nations and private companies may well be mining the surface of the Moon.

But as space becomes accessible to more nations and corporations, we need to stop and ask ourselves what commercial activities we want to allow, including on the Moon.

Now is the time to create the rules and regulations that will protect humanity's shared future in space and ensure the Moon remains a symbol and inspiration for generations to come.

1. Why mine the Moon?

NASA's multibillion dollar Artemis programme isn't just about sending astronauts back to the Moon. It's about paving the way for mining operations.

China is also on a similar trajectory.

All of this has set in motion a new lunar race with private companies competing to figure out how to extract the Moon's resources, potentially selling it back to governments in a cosmic supply chain.

Currently, all supplies for space exploration are shipped from Earth, making essentials like water and fuel eye-wateringly expensive.

By the time a single litre of water reaches the Moon, its cost beats that of gold.

But by converting water ice on the Moon into hydrogen and oxygen, we can refuel spacecraft on-site. This could make deeper space journeys, especially to Mars, far more feasible.

The Moon's wealth of rare Earth metals, essential for technologies like smartphones, also means lunar mining could ease the strain on Earth's dwindling reserves.

Private companies might beat space agencies to the punch; a startup could be mining the Moon before NASA lands its next astronaut.

2. Could mining change how we see the Moon from Earth?

When material is extracted from the Moon, dust gets kicked up. Without an atmosphere to slow it down, this lunar dust can travel vast distances.

That surface material is "space weathered" and duller than the more reflective material beneath. Disturbing the lunar dust means some patches of the Moon may appear brighter where the dust has been kicked up, while other patches may appear more dull if dust resettles on top.

Even small-scale operations might disturb enough dust to create visible changes over time.

> **As space becomes accessible to more nations and corporations, we need to stop and ask ourselves what commercial activities we want to allow**

Managing lunar dust will be a crucial factor in ensuring sustainable and minimally disruptive mining practices.

3. Who owns the Moon?

The Outer Space Treaty (1967) makes it clear no nation can claim to "own" the Moon (or any celestial body).

However, it is less clear whether a company extracting resources from the Moon violates this non-appropriation clause.

Two later agreements take up this issue.

The 1979 Moon Treaty claims the Moon and its natural resources as "common heritage of mankind". This is often interpreted as an explicit ban on commercial lunar mining.

The 2020 Artemis Accords, however, allow for mining while reaffirming the Outer Space Treaty's rejection of any claims of ownership over the Moon itself.

The Outer Space Treaty also notes the exploration of space should benefit everyone on Earth, not just the wealthier nations and corporations able to get there.

When it comes to resource extraction, some argue this means all nations should share in the bounty of any future lunar mining endeavour.

4. What would miners' lives be like on the Moon?

Imagine you've worked 12 hours straight in hot and dirty conditions. You are dehydrated, hungry and overwhelmed. Some of your co-workers have collapsed or been injured due to exhaustion. You all wish you could just get another job with good safety standards, fair pay and reasonable hours. But you can't. You're stuck in space.

This dystopian vision highlights the potential dangers of rushing into lunar mining without addressing the risks to workers.

Working in low gravity conditions brings health hazards. Lunar miners are more likely to suffer:

- bone and muscle loss
- osteoporosis
- renal and cardiovascular damage, and
- impaired immunity.

Exposure to cosmic radiation not only carries an increased risk of various cancers but can also affect fertility.

Lunar miners will also face prolonged isolation and intense psychological stress. We'll need good laws and guidelines to protect the health and wellbeing of the space workforce.

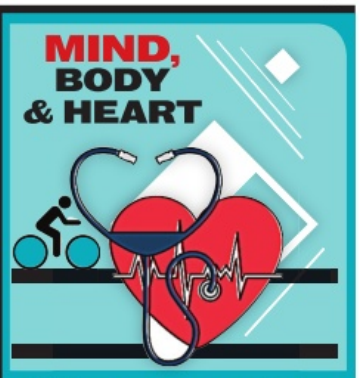
Regulatory bodies to enforce worker rights and safety standards will be far away on Earth. Miners may be left with little recourse if asked to work unreasonable hours in unsafe conditions.

British astrobiologist Charles S. Cockell claims this makes space "tyranny-prone". Powerful individuals could, he argues, be able to abuse people who have nowhere else to go.

The Moon holds incredible promise as a stepping stone for human exploration and a potential source of resources to sustain life on Earth and beyond.

But history has shown us the consequences of unchecked exploitation. Before we mine the Moon, we must establish robust regulations that prioritise fairness, safety and human rights.

(By Evie Kendal and Alan Duffy, Swinburne University of Technology, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Early life experiences

Biologically embedded
A team of researchers has provided crucial insights into how early-life experiences become biologically embedded, affecting long-term health outcomes by reshaping our genes and brain health.

Brain health
In a comprehensive Genomic Press Interview published in the journal Genomic Psychiatry, renowned neuroscientist Dr Michael Meaney from McGill University in Canada revealed pivotal discoveries about the intricate relationship between genes and environment in shaping brain health.

Path of discovery
"I have always been genuinely fascinated by the search for the developmental origins of individual differences in brain development and function," said Dr Meaney, whose work has earned him election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Order of Canada.
Dr Meaney's research journey began with a simple question: what makes individuals different from one another?
This curiosity led him to groundbreaking discoveries in epigenetics -- the study of how environmental factors can influence gene expression without changing DNA sequences.

Complex reality
"We too readily embrace narratives and technology that appeal to the general public, achieve headlines, and attract venture capital, but are far too simplistic to capture the complex reality of brain health truly," observed Dr Meaney.

Questions it raises
The findings raise ntriguing questions about how society might better support child development: How can we translate these scientific insights into practical interventions? What role do different types of early experiences play in shaping resilience? **- IANS**

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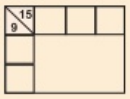
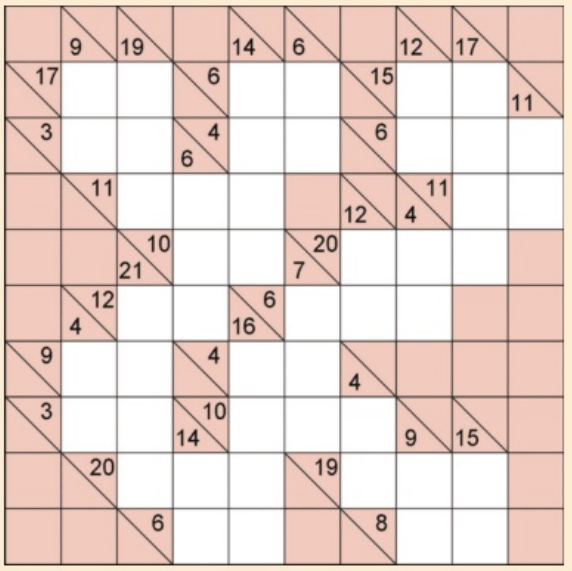
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

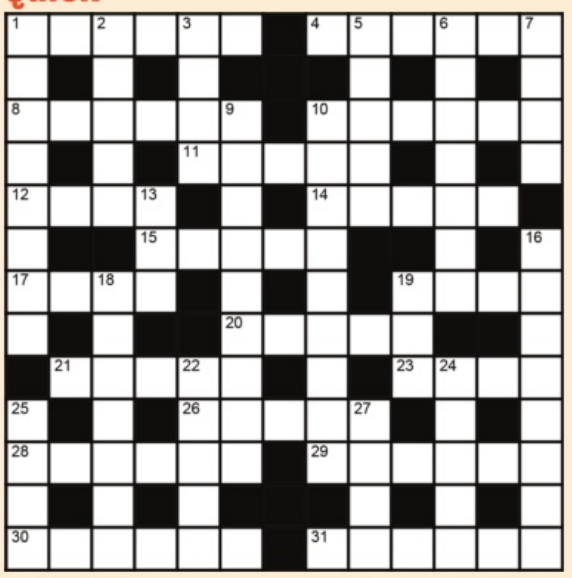


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Powerful or enormous (6)
4 Thinly scattered; infrequent (6)
8 Lotto or bingo? (6)
10 A small tap or valve on a keg or a drum (6)
11 Readily available (2,3)
12 A round or rotation of duties (4)
14 Synthetic fibre (5)
15 Goods in store (5)
17 Yank or pull; pluck (4)
19 __ __ arms / riled? (2,2)
20 Bellows like a lion, perhaps (5)
21 Hindu goddess of war (5)
23 Grecian portico (4)
26 Large marble (5)
28 Act or react in a specified way (6)
29 Slanting typeface (6)
30 Sea monster from Greek mythology (6)
31 Interior; up-country (6)

DOWN

1 Indian king (8)
2 Pig's noise (5)
3 Group of three (4)
5 A young dog (5)
6 Reassemble (7)
7 Consumes (4)
9 Hearten (9)
10 Festival celebrated in January (9)
13 Inquire of (3)
16 Amplified, strengthened or improved? (8)
18 Approximately or nearly? (7)
19 United State Steamship, abbr. (3)
22 Magistrate's hammer (5)
24 City in Oklahoma (5)
25 Business degrees (4)
27 Famous school (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS G

GXBJMFJSKGQRN FL GD XDKFOGCVT OVRFWCV AJK BVCCFDS BRV BKXBR GMJXB JBRVK QVJQCV.

Linemaro

A coconut on vacation

Mindchow

Fear leads to anger, anger leads to hate, hate leads to suffering

Joke of the day

I told my buddy Jewish people call god by a different name. He was like, 'No way!'. I was like, 'Yahweh!'

Loop

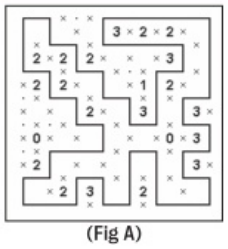
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

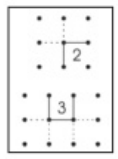
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

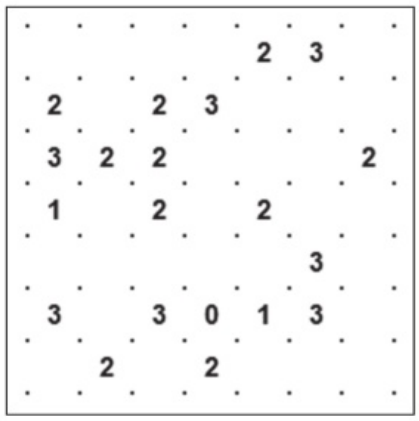
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



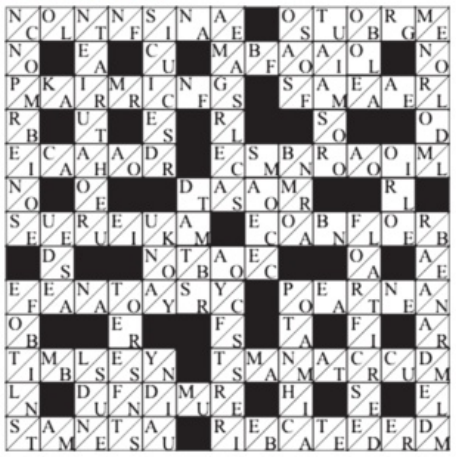
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



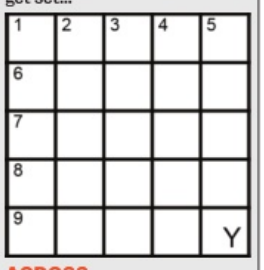
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Cawls; 6 I halt; 7 Booes; 8 Limes; 9 L play

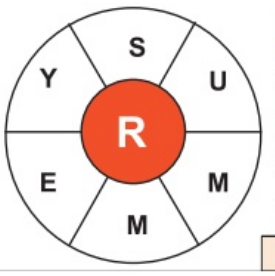
DOWN

1 PLC mo; 2 Abila; 3 To all; 4 Wee HL; 5 Sy sis

Mensapuzzle

What number should the last domino show on the top to complete this puzzle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 07 Outstanding

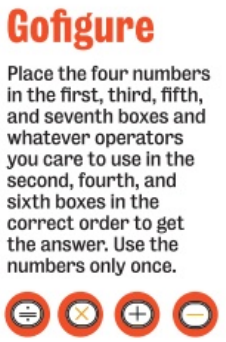
SudokuChallenge

	7		2			5		
		1				2	7	
6		2	7	3				1
					3			5
	2		1		8		9	
4			5					
8				2	7	4		3
	3	4				9		
		9			5		1	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

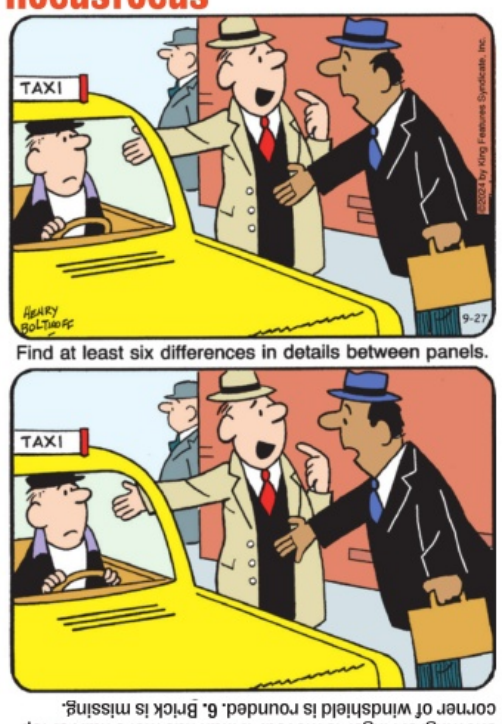


Easy = 5
2 5 6 8

Medium = 28
4 7 8 9

Hard = 2
3 8 9 4

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

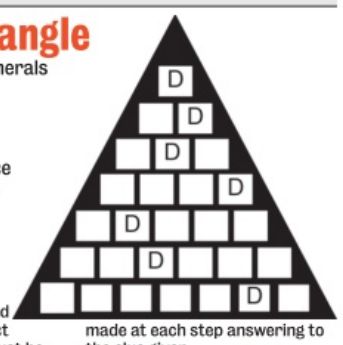
Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Cab driver's hand is showing. 3. Finger is moved. 4. Man has more hair. 5. Top corner of windshield is rounded. 6. Brick is missing.

Riddler

Solve this rebus/ GR 12" AVE

Alpha triangle

1 500 in roman numerals
2 Overdose, abbr.
3 Bother
4 Way to go
5 Dote on
6 Severe experience
7 Rolled-meat dish

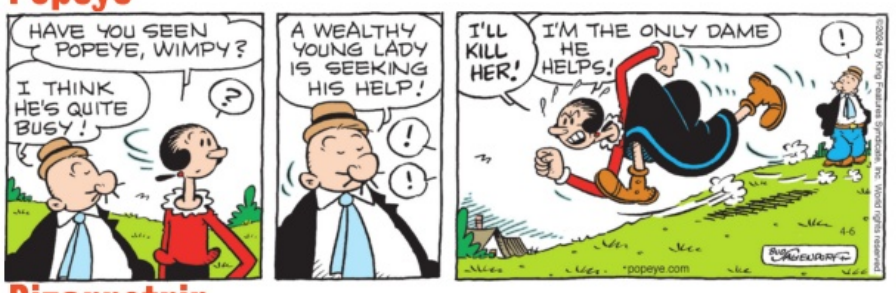


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

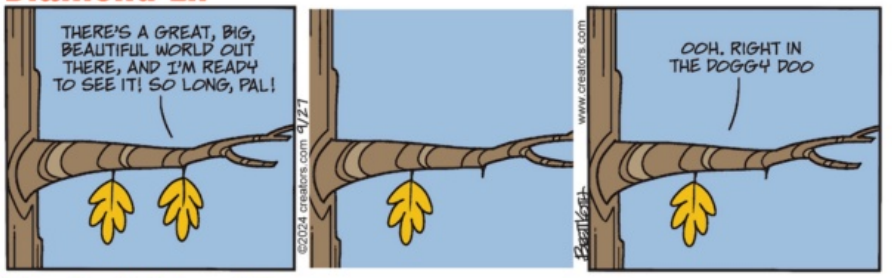
COMICS

Popeye

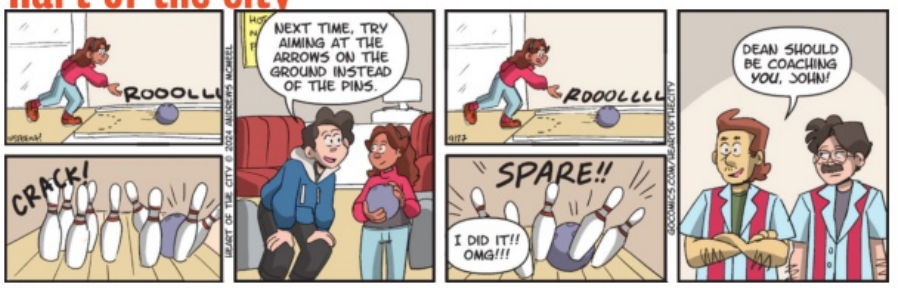

HAVE YOU SEEN POPEYE, WIMPY?
I THINK HE'S QUITE BUSY!
A WEALTHY YOUNG LADY IS SEEKING HIS HELP!
I'LL KILL HER!
I'M THE ONLY DAME HE HELPS!
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil



Hart of the city


ROOOLL
CRACK!
NEXT TIME, TRY AIMING AT THE ARROWS ON THE GROUND INSTEAD OF THE PINS.
ROOOLLL
SPARE!!
I DID IT!! OMG!!!
DEAN SHOULD BE COACHING YOU, JOHN!

Crankshaft

LEARNING TO READ AS AN ADULT WAS A REAL STRUGGLE...
AND, NOW THAT I CAN READ ANYTHING I WANT...
I DON'T WANT ANYONE TELLING ME WHAT I CAN OR CAN'T READ.
tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel negative due to sleeplessness, which could affect your work performance. So it is advised to postpone any investments in your work today. You might fall victim to conspiracies, so be vigilant about opponents and rivals. Lovebirds should exercise patience and avoid unnecessary arguments.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You are blessed by the moon today. You may secure a big order with the help of overseas contacts. While you might experience some moments of anxiety, you will be able to control it. Students may dive deeper into their studies. Investors should focus on long-term investments for fruitful gains.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may be busy at work today and face difficulties completing tasks, which could leave you feeling upset. However, blessings from elders or mentors will help you overcome these challenges. Due to your workload, you may not have time for your family, but your siblings will likely support you in maintaining domestic harmony.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, things may feel under control after recent challenges. You will feel calm and focused on your goals and will enjoy your work. Disputes in partnerships may be settled now, and property-related litigation may resolve. Romantic moments with loved ones are likely to lift your spirits and strengthen domestic harmony.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today may not be a good day for you. Negative thoughts and impatience could hinder your decision-making. Your arrogance might prevent you from taking difficult decisions. You may feel stuck in life, so it's important to seek blessings from your elders to help overcome this period. Avoid investing in dead assets. Lovebirds should steer clear of discussing trivial matters.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon. You may receive good news regarding work or business. Your domestic life will be filled with joy. Avoid arguments over trivial topics, as excitement might test your patience. You may make important investment decisions today. Students should stay focused on their studies.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today is good for your work, and you may perform well. Your boss may assign you additional responsibilities, leading to potential promotions. Your rivals and opponents will be under control now. You may lend money to make investments in assets, and you may also plan investments for your kids' future

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel dull, leading to laziness and carelessness at work. Impatience may negatively affect you, and you might be distracted. Health concerns regarding your kids or spouse could upset you. It's best to avoid making investments in assets. Lovebirds should avoid arguments in family matters.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You may sense negative vibrations today, which could make you unhappy. It's advised to refrain from investing in worthless assets. Friends may not be supportive today, so don't expect much help from them, or it may lead to further disappointment. It is advised that you trust your intuition before making any important decisions.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today is a good day. You may successfully implement business plans today with the support of your subordinates. You may also be involved in a social or family get-together, which will help expand your network. Short business trips may be on the horizon, providing benefits in the near future.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today is a good day for your finances, and you may benefit from past investments. You'll have control over spending on unnecessary items, which will help boost your savings. Lovebirds are advised to be polite in conversations with their partners to avoid conflicts. Students are advised to focus on their studies.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be busy dealing with issues related to siblings and relatives. You might plan to start a new venture with their help, which could increase your family business. Your network will support you in successfully completing tasks, and you may see smart gains with a little effort.

KIDZONE

SS BHAGWAN, Bengaluru

Shreya, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
=(11+5) / (6-2)
=16/4 = 4

RIDDLER
One foot in the grave

FAST FIVE

C	L	A	W	S
L	A	T	H	I
M	I	L	E	S
O	B	O	E	S
P	A	L	L	Y

QUOTE UNCODE
Autobiography is an unrivalled vehicle for telling the truth about other people.

STRIKE OUT

S	A	N	T	A	■	R	E	C	E	D	E	D	■	■
L	■	U	N	D	U	E	■	I	■	E	■	E	■	■
I	B	S	E	N	■	T	A	N	T	R	U	M	■	■
O	■	■	R	■	S	■	A	■	F	■	■	A	■	■
F	A	N	T	A	S	Y	■	P	A	T	E	N	■	■
■	S	■	O	B	O	E	■	A	■	■	■	E	■	■
E	U	R	E	K	A	■	C	O	N	F	E	R	■	■
N	■	E	■	T	S	A	R	■	L	■	■	■	■	■
I	C	H	O	R	■	E	M	B	R	O	I	L	■	■
B	■	T	■	E	■	L	■	O	■	O	■	O	■	■
M	A	I	M	I	N	G	■	S	M	E	A	R	■	■
O	■	E	■	C	■	A	B	O	I	■	L	■	N	■
C	O	N	F	I	N	E	■	S	T	O	R	E	■	■

QUICK

S	C	Y	L	L	A	■	I	N	L	A	N	D	■	■
A	■	L	■	E	■	O	■	S	■	E	■	■	■	■
B	E	H	A	V	E	■	I	T	A	L	I	C	■	■
M	■	G	■	A	G	A	T	E	■	U	■	N	■	■
■	D	U	R	G	A	■	N	■	S	T	O	A	■	■
A	■	O	■	R	O	A	R	S	■	■	■	H	■	■
J	E	R	K	■	U	■	R	■	U	P	I	N	■	■
A	■	S	T	O	C	K	■	■	U	■	■	E	■	■
R	O	T	A	■	C	■	N	Y	L	O	N	■	■	■
A	■	N	■	O	N	T	A	P	■	R	■	S	■	■
H	O	U	S	I	E	■	S	P	I	G	O	T	■	■
A	■	R	■	■	U	■	■	E	■	■	■	A	■	■
M	I	G	H	T	Y	■	S	P	A	R	S	E	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
3. Starting on the left and working to the right, take pairs of dominoes and calculate the sum of the dots they are displaying. This sum follows the sequence 3, 6, 9 and 12.

BULL'S EYE
rummy, ruse, serum, summer, SUMMERY, sure, user

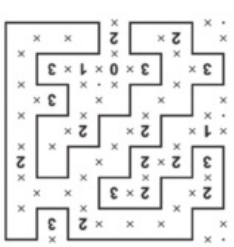
SUDOKU

9	7	8	2	1	4	5	3	6
3	4	1	8	5	6	9	7	2
6	5	2	7	3	9	8	4	1
1	8	7	4	9	3	6	2	5
5	2	6	1	7	8	3	9	4
4	9	3	5	6	2	1	8	7
8	1	5	9	2	7	4	6	3
7	3	4	6	8	1	9	5	2
2	6	9	3	4	5	7	1	8

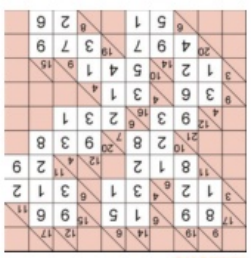
ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, OD, Ado, Road, Adore, Ordeal, Roulade.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 − 8 + 5 + 6 = 5
Medium
7 + 8 + 9 + 4 = 28
Hard
4 + 9 + 3 / 8 = 2

LOOP



KAKURO



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December blockbusters help raise low spirits of 2024

Sandalwood weathered its share of ups & downs last year, but would be looking forward to a better 2025 that can set cash registers ringing

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For Sandalwood, the year began on a whimper though 14 movies released in January. Almost all of them, except Chikkanna-Malavika starred Upadhyaksha and Abhijit Mahesh directed Bachelor Party, brought only grim news for its producers. With Darshan's movie Kaatera, released on December 29, 2023, ruling the roost, more than 10 movies released in January were withdrawn from theatres within a few days. It is believed that Kaatera's gross collection crossed Rs 200-crore mark.

Around 30 movies were released in 28 days (February) but only three movies – Ondu Sarala Prema Kathe, Abbabba, and Shahakari – were screened for more than a week at single screen theaters.

March saw 24 movies release but most of them, including big-ticket ones such as Kerebete, Ranganayaka, and Karataka Damanaka, failed to have an impact on audiences. The failure of Ranganayaka even made Navarasa Nayaka Jaggesh to disassociate himself with late director Guruprasad. Karataka Damanaka failed to succeed though it was directed by Yogaraj Bhat and featured big names such as Dr Shivarajkumar, Prabhu Deva, Priya Anand, and Nishvika Naidu.

Seventeen movies, including Avatara Purusha 2 were released in April but none of them succeeded at the box office. Fifteen movies were released in May. Of these, though Moorane Krishnappa and Ramana Avatara got rave reviews, they failed to bring cheers to their producers. Of 15 movies in June, except Dhananjay-starrer Kotee and Anirudha Jatkar-starrer Chef Chidambara, all were withdrawn from screens in a few days.

Again a similar number of movies was released in July. Back Bencherz and Roopanthara were the best among the 15. Sixteen movies were released in August. Among these, Bheema and Krishnam Pranaya Sakhi became huge hits at the box office. While Bheema helped Duniya Vijay regain his lost glory, Krishnam Pranaya Sakhi established Golden Star Ganesh as a hero again and also proved that Srinivas Raju, known for handling megaphone for violence-oriented movies, can direct love and sentiment-oriented movies. Vinay Rajkumar's Pepe was also released in this month, but did not succeed at the box-office. Laughing Buddha got good reviews from critics but failed to attract audiences to theaters.

Nineteen movies, including Langoti Man, were released in September. Among these, Ibbani Tabbida Ileyali was considered the best movie. Sixteen movies were released in October. Of these, even much-hyped movies such as Bhairadevi, Yala Kunni, and Martin crashed at the box office beyond redemption. Bhageera succeeded to some extent at the box office. Twenty-one movies were released in November. These movies included Priyanka Upendra-starrer Ugravatara, Dr Shivarajkumar's Bhairathi Ranagal, Aniish's Aaraam Aravind Swamy and Rakesh Adiga's Maryade Prashne.

December began with three flops – Dheera Bhagat Roy and Haridasara Dinachari and Out of Syllabus but ended with back-to-back blockbusters UI and Max.

2024's hits: Max, UI, Bheema, Krishnam Pranaya Sakhi, Bharathi Ranagal, Bachelor Party, Avatara Purusha 2, Maryade Prashne, Aaraam Aravind Swamy, and Kote.

2024's stars: Sudeep, Upendra, Duniya Vijay, Ganesh, Dhananjay, and Murali.

2024's duds: Bhairadevi, Martin, Yela Kuni, Karataka Damanaka, Langoti Man, and Just Pass

Cancer-free after surgery, Shivarajkumar shares moving message

In a heartfelt New Year message, actor and film producer Shiva Rajkumar has expressed his gratitude to fans and well-wishers after successfully undergoing cancer treatment.

One of the Kannada film industry's beloved stars took to his official social media account to share a touching video, offering a glimpse into his emotional journey following his recent surgery in Miami, Florida.

In the video, Shiva Rajkumar shared his experience with fans and family as he reflected on his recovery.

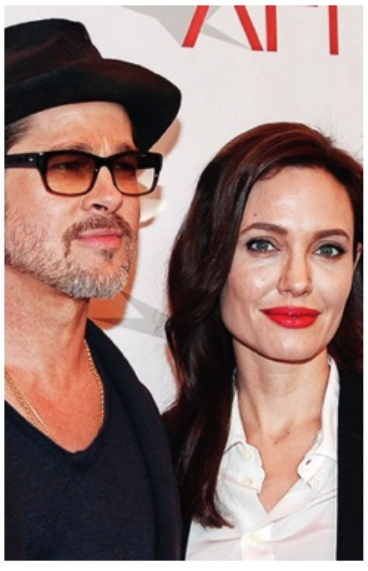
"Namaskar and wish you a Happy New Year," he began, noting how challenging it had been to speak about his health journey.

He admitted that even before his diagnosis, he had been fearful, but the unwavering support from his fans, family, and medical team had given him the strength to battle through.

"I was scared even before, but fans, relatives, co-artists, and doctors - especially Dr. Shashidhar who treated me, and nurses made me strong. I did the chemotherapy, and honestly, I don't know how I managed. But in the end, when I was ready to go for treatment in Miami, I was still scared. However, my friends, family, and loved ones were by my side," Rajkumar shared.

He went on to thank those who stood by him during his treatment, including his wife Geetha, who was with him every step of the way.

"My cousin, wife Geetha, Prashant, my friend Anu, and Madhu Bangarappa took great care of me. Doctors and the entire staff at the Miami Cancer Center were extremely supportive," he said, adding that the surgery had been successful. **-ANI**



Divorce settled, Angelina hopes for family healing after 8 years

After years of legal battles, Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt have officially finalized their divorce, ending an eight-year saga that began when Jolie filed for separation in September 2016.

However, despite reaching a divorce settlement, tensions between the two remain high with ongoing disputes casting a shadow over their post-divorce lives.

As per People magazine, on December 30, both parties signed off on the divorce, marking the end of a protracted legal ordeal.

Jolie's attorney, James Simon, noted the actress's relief at the resolution. "Angelina is exhausted but relieved this one part is over. She remains focused on finding peace and healing for their family," Simon said, according to People magazine.

Jolie is reportedly hoping that her ex-husband, Brad Pitt, will use this turning point to focus on healing. "Brad has used his power and privilege to punish Angelina for leaving and to paint her as the reason for his strained relationship with the children. Angelina hopes the finalization of their divorce will encourage him to move on, stop attacking her, and help their family heal," a source close to Jolie shared, as per People magazine.

A source close to Pitt rejected Jolie's claims, stating, "For the past eight years, there have been one-sided attacks, including a distortion of facts and projecting behaviour onto others, which has caused tremendous collateral damage to the family." Pitt declined to comment on the finalization of the divorce through his representatives, as per People magazine. **-ANI**